

# EASTERN WORLD

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PAKISTAN AND INDIA

RUBBER STAMP  
DEMOCRACY

THE END OF  
UNTOUCHABILITY

DECLINE OF  
FRENCH POWER  
IN VIET NAM

STRATEGY IN  
AUSTRALASIA

FOUNTAIN OF  
ORIENTAL RESEARCH

GERMAN EAST-ASIAN  
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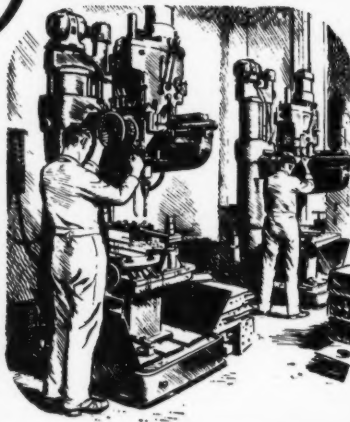
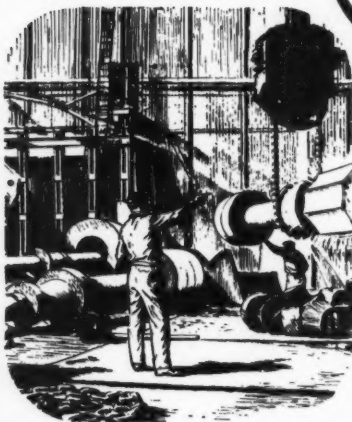
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Believing in the freedom of the press, this journal represents a forum where articles containing many different, and often controversial opinions are published. They do not necessarily express the views or policy of this paper.



# EASTERN WORLD

London

April

1956

## PAKISTAN AND INDIA

**I**N the past few weeks relations between India and Pakistan have gone through a critical period. The situation became serious enough for the Prime Ministers of both countries to assure each other that they would consider open conflict between them to be an act of folly. The world can be thankful that this sort of reasoning prevails in the midst of a spate of hostile comment on both sides.

On the face of it nothing new in the relationship between the two countries seems to have recently occurred to bring about heightened tension and the unhealthy rash of border incidents. But psychological reactions are not necessarily caused by things tangible. A number of events that apparently have little or no connection can affect national feelings. There is no doubt that the reaction in Pakistan to the visit of Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev to India was to create a feeling that Pakistan was reaping fewer material benefits and less moral backing by allying herself to the West than by being neutral or uncommitted. The result was not only an increase in criticism of her allies for a lack of support, but heightened feeling against her neighbour.

It has never been hard to detect, although of course it has never been openly expressed, that there is a certain smouldering resentment in Pakistan at India's accepted status as a great power and spokesman of a large section of Asian opinion. A great many Pakistanis think that Indians are too ready to think of themselves as leaders in Asia, and in doing so display an irritating intellectual arrogance. It must be said that it is not only Pakistan that considers India is prone to the latter trait, criticism on that account is quietly expressed in those Asian countries whose policies are identified with India's, but it is perhaps more acute in Pakistan and is part of the feeling of resentment. The visit of the Russian leaders added strength to India's position in the world, while Pakistan's adherence to western dominated pacts has weakened hers. Pakistan would officially deny this, but expressions inside the country after the Soviet visit to India indicated a consciousness of something like inferiority and a desire for the assertion of an independent line of thinking by Pakistan. These feelings are part of the intangibles that have caused a reaction

against India, and the demand by Pakistan that the S.E.A.T.O. powers should express support for her case in Kashmir as Khrushchev did in India.

And what of feeling in India? Over a period of time one factor seemed determinable. Indians have never been wholly reconciled to the division of the sub-continent along religious lines as opposed to racial lines; and the creation of Pakistan into an Islamic Republic, while the alarming exodus of Hindus from East Bengal continues, has incensed opinion in India. It is true that what Pakistan does as a sovereign country is no real concern of official India, and of course official India has expressed none, but the effect on individuals is something over which no one can have any control. On the official side, India has never concealed her opposition and contempt for Pakistan's close alliance with the United States and other western nations. The perfectly understandable view in Delhi is that as Pakistan is no more vulnerable to militant Communism than India, there is no reason why she should be party to military pacts. India feels that Pakistan's membership of SEATO and the Baghdad Pact brings world tension on to the sub-continent's doorstep, but more than this Indians believe that Pakistan intends to use the backing of her allies to give her material and moral strength in disputes with India. The criticism of Pakistan that this belief has intensified in India has caused a violent reaction in Pakistani newspapers, and the counter to it has produced much the same effect in the Indian press. This has further heightened tension between the two nations.

It was of course misguided and stupid for an organisation like S.E.A.T.O. to discuss the Kashmir affair, but it is surely unrealistic to believe that Pakistan will attempt military aggression either in Kashmir or against India; and the truth is that there is no real fear in Karachi Government circles that India, being the stronger militarily, will

### Announcement

This issue of "Eastern World" was well behind in production before normal working conditions were resumed towards the end of last month after a dispute in the London printing trade. We apologise for appearing several days late, and for a reduction in the number of pages.

impose herself on Pakistan by force. But just as Pakistan's mixed feelings over the Bulganin and Khrushchev visit brought about a reaction against India, so it would seem that Pakistan's close ties with powerful western nations has increased Indian suspicions of Pakistan's motives. Although these feelings are intangible they are not chimerical; and no one would deny that in such an atmosphere emotion can get the better of reason and small differences magnified

into large and ugly ones. It would be disastrous indeed if this was allowed to happen. The tensions that are present are of the kind that those opposed to military pacts have always declared would arise, and the western powers must bear something of the blame for present situation. But it is only the statesmanship of India and Pakistan that can settle affairs now. The "no-war" declaration proposed by Pakistan and accepted by India is a good starting point.

## RUBBER STAMP DEMOCRACY

It is perhaps arguable that the function of democracy as we think of it in the West will work, or even take root, in the newly independent, nascent, countries of the world. Perhaps, under the prevailing circumstances in any given country, western type democracy could not be expected to work. It is a process of government and social order that must grow out of conditions that are favourable to its growth, and if those conditions are not present it cannot be imposed simply by going through one or two routine exercises that normally take place in democratic countries of long standing. In a world rent with ideological conflicts many people in the West have come to regard democracy less as a system of government than as a slogan to be used against the advance of Communist ideas. To encourage a country to get ahead hurriedly with elections,

to have a largely illiterate population put its mark against this or that symbol when the people have little knowledge of what is at stake, may give the rubber stamp of democracy, but it can scarcely be called democratic. Proper democracy has many safeguards, the chief one of which is that the people are capable of being fully enlightened about the issues which are being put to the vote, and can choose according to their own beliefs and desires.

Among the newly independent countries of Asia, it has taken Indonesia ten years to reach this stage, and although all those factors which in the West are taken for granted, are not yet present in Indonesia, the awareness of the population is such that the present Government reflects the wishes of the people. India, too, has a largely illiterate



PERILOUS SEAT-O

but reasonably enlightened population. Pakistan has not yet felt ready to hold national elections.

In view of all this, it is particularly ludicrous, and to some extent insulting to the intelligent mind, for American officials and press, and for some western observers, to call last month's elections in South Viet Nam democratic, and to go on to say with naive wonderment how quickly South Viet Nam has reached a stage of democracy compared with India, Indonesia, and other newly independent Asian countries. The way the elections were conducted and the result they achieved may please all those who thought it expedient for Ngo Dinh Diem's regime now to bear the title of a democracy, but it will not satisfy genuine democrats who will not only believe that a rubber stamp democracy is bad in itself, but is vulnerable to the very ideological forces that it has been created to oppose.

In the first place the Diem Government does not exercise complete control over the whole of South Viet Nam, and where it does, ordinary democratic liberties do not exist. Before and during the election the press was controlled and free political meetings were not allowed. Electioneering was not possible in the accepted sense since the Government organised and paid for the facilities for propaganda. Election committees were Government controlled, and the voters were checked in such a way as to give them legitimate cause for worry if they did not register their votes. No effective opposition to Diem could emerge because anyone speaking out against the Government could be accused of "rebel" activities, and the electoral law specifically stated that those "whose expressed opinions have for their object the support of Communist or rebel activities," were liable to imprisonment. Much more could be said about the conduct of the election, and about the entrenchment of members of Mr. Diem's own family in the political parties returned to the Constituent Assembly, but enough has gone to show that the term democratic cannot by any stretch of the imagination be applied to it.

And what of the Assembly now that it has been brought into being? Its primary function will be to approve a draft constitution submitted to it by President Diem and drafted for him by his ministers with the aid of an American expert on constitutional law. If the Assembly does not agree with the constitution, Mr. Diem is not bound to accept alterations; he can return the Bill to the Assembly and if they fail to agree within 45 days, the Assembly will be dissolved.

This is the sort of thing that, if Ngo Dinh Diem and South Viet Nam were Communist, would be held to be vicious and totalitarian. And yet it has been stamped with the word "democracy" because the United States, which now virtually controls South Viet Nam, believing that democracy is the answer to Communism wants to establish the country firmly in the democratic camp. Those who believe that true democracy presents an alternative to totalitarianism in any form will be wise to see that the cause is weakened by the acceptance of the Saigon regime. The most vigorous protests are called for,



## Comment

### Coalition in Jakarta

THE distribution of portfolios in the new Indonesian Government—the first to be formed as a result of an election—seems to reflect the relative strength of the non-Communist parties in Parliament. The Nationalists (PNI) have six ministries, the Masjumi and Nahdatul Ulama (Muslim Teachers) five each, and the remaining nine are distributed among five minor parties. Ali Sastroamidjojo of the PNI becomes Prime Minister, and his party also takes the Foreign Ministry.

When previously Dr. Ali was Prime Minister he headed a government of Nationalists in coalition with the Communists (PKI). The life of that Ali government was repeatedly threatened by a walk-out of the Communists, and in western circles Dr. Ali was regarded with suspicion because of his anti-West (some have said very left wing) views which were attributed to the accommodation of Communists in his Cabinet. The West now takes heart from the exclusion of the Communists from the present Government, and the United States view is that Dr. Ali in working with the Masjumi—a party considered to be pro-West—will be more moderate in outlook towards the West. This is a doubtful assumption. Ali Sastroamidjojo is a sincere nationalist and he and his party believe in a foreign policy of non-commitment. The Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung was largely Dr. Ali's idea, and he has never suppressed his opposition to western policies in Asia. In any case, the other parties to the coalition are not at great variance with the PNI on matters of external affairs. It is on internal matters that there is a possibility of some disagreement, and it is not unlikely that the Cabinet will meet a certain measure of criticism from members of its own parties on the floor and in the lobbies of Parliament. It is to be hoped that this will not lead to corruption and bribery in buying votes.

Only time will show if this new Government will last in its present form, but a wide view of the Indonesian



political scene suggests that latent elements exist in the parties which may yet emerge into leadership. The PKI in opposition will certainly be on the look-out for an opportunity to profit from disagreement among the coalition parties.

## A Word in America's Ear

**T**HE Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, and Mr. Lester Pearson, Minister of State for External Affairs did well recently to remind the American President and Mr. Dulles that United States policy towards China would inevitably run the world into trouble. They as good as told Mr. Eisenhower that Canada could not be a party to whatever the result of such a policy would be. The Canadian Government has recently taken an active part in working behind the scenes to bring about a lessening of tension in the Far East, and frank words from America's neighbour ought to make some impression in Washington. Mr. Pearson made it quite plain to the President that public opinion in Canada was making support for Chiang Kai-shek almost untenable for the Ottawa Government. Over the situation in the Taiwan (Formosa) strait Mr. Pearson said that China seemed to be making an effort to maintain the *status quo*, but that American policy was causing increasing restiveness among the nations of the world.

In their capacity as member of the truce commission in Indo-China, and in their conversations with India and other uncommitted nations in Asia Canadians have realised the danger that American anti-Communist fanaticism holds for the world. Being anti-Communist is one thing, but being positively fanatical about it is something which even level-headed countries like Canada find it hard to tolerate.

It was not surprising that President Eisenhower told the Canadian Ministers that many people in his country were unalterably opposed to recognising China. A glance from time to time at the American press is indication enough of the way anti-Communism has hypnotised the nation. Magazines like *Time* carry lurid articles on mass exterminations in China—worse than those carried out by Hitler.

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The International Latex Corporation pay for columns and columns in the American newspapers, reprinting the most terrifying articles from other papers so that American readers have the terror constantly before them. Nowhere else in the world can newspapers and scholars find the sort of facts about China and Russia that American journalists can. Are we to assume that everyone, except certain Americans, is incapable of finding out? American syndicated strips that find their way into foreign newspapers are only slightly less subtle. One in a Pakistan newspaper has three pictures called "Did You Know". Two are factual contributions to knowledge, the other is blatant propaganda: "did you know that Singapore is a city terrorised by children? Communist agitators use school children to riot . . . etc."

With this sort of mentality widespread in the United States neither the Canadian visitors nor anyone else could hope to get any satisfaction about the alteration of dangerous American policies. It is only to be hoped that Canadian criticism of US policy will at least open eyes in Washington that to pursue their present policies will slowly but inevitably begin to lose them the support of their friends.

## Voice of Gandhism

**E**VER since the death of Gandhi, *Harijan*, the weekly journal he started in 1933, had been in difficulties. In February, a few days after India observed the eighth anniversary of Gandhi's assassination, the Navjivan Trust of Ahmedabad, who ran the paper, announced their decision to close it down. Once before, some four years ago, the Trust had made a similar decision, but due to the help offered by some of the Mahatma's close associates it was possible to continue publication. Apparently the paper's financial troubles still remained and last year the losses were heavier than in any previous year. It was Gandhi's principle that a newspaper ought to be supported entirely by its readers and *Harijan* would not accept advertisements. Against the economic pressures of the post-war period it was practically impossible to sustain this idealism. Circulation was also declining. When Gandhi was alive he wrote in *Harijan* week after week discussing the vital issues that faced India during her fight for freedom, and these articles were closely followed by his people. It was natural that after his death the paper's appeal diminished in spite of the fact that it continued to interpret Gandhi's teachings faithfully and maintained its tradition of clear and forthright writing.

The circumstances of the closing of *Harijan* do not warrant the assumption that the appeal of Gandhian principles is diminishing in the new India. Nehru's socialism may have many aspects which strict Gandhians will not approve of, and violence have often in recent months paralysed Indian cities, yet there is no doubt that Gandhism continues to be a live force in India to-day. Gandhi would have faced the closing of the paper with equanimity: in fact he would have been the first to suggest its closing as soon as it became evident that its readers could not maintain it. Nevertheless, its passing will be widely regretted. As the only organ of Gandhism it had an important part to play. We hope that Gandhians will find some way of reviving this great and unique journal.



# THE END OF "UNTOUCHABILITY"

By J. D. M. Derrett

INDIA, as everyone knows, is a stalwart and persistent champion of underprivileged, or, as her politicians prefer to call them, "oppressed" peoples. Wherever a community having some racial homogeneity is being harassed or discriminated against by a dominant group, particularly where the latter consists of whites of foreign origin and the former is coloured, India can be relied upon to denounce the system under which a section of humanity is denied full legal and social equality with the remainder. Victims either of the fashionable disease of "colonialism," or of the desperate problem of racial segregation, in Indonesia, South Africa North Africa, the Southern States of America, Goa, and last but not least Malaya have successfully sought sympathy, inspiration and moral encouragement from India. Her least typical but potentially most effective pupil is Egypt. We shall not marvel at this, since, after the accumulated indignation of western-educated Indians had borne fruit in the Independence Act of 1947, India is in a unique position to expound both the defects of political inequality and their cure.

It is equally well-known that the Indian complacent, not to say sanctimonious, attitude upon the question of social and legal equality has an incongruous background. This was evident to Mahatma Gandhi at least as early as the first World War. If Hindus were to achieve Independence by moral arguments and not by violence they must show that they were capable of democracy within their own fold. The phenomenon known there as "caste-ism" had to go, and the Mahatma spent a good part of his life endeavouring to persuade orthodox Hindus that caste-distinctions actually stood in the way of their political aspirations. He called the out-castes, or "untouchables," *harijans*, a name which has stuck: "people of God"—the name was at once flattering and patronising. Undoubtedly growing urbanisation and closer contacts with non-Hindu peoples slowly persuaded the traditionalists that life without caste-distinctions was a possibility without grave spiritual and material risks. But it was the approach of Independence and the task of adopting a Constitution which did more than any other identifiable factor to bring to pass the legal sanctions which will rid India of the worst aspects of caste as an institution. The Indian Parliament last year passed an astonishingly comprehensive statute, called "The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955," which, at least on paper, puts an end to the possibility that any of India's colleagues in the United Nations might point to her tolerating civil disabilities based merely upon birth or religion.

The Act itself is in fulfilment of a pledge given in Article 17 of the Constitution of 1949, which reads:

"Untouchability" is abolished and its practise in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of "Untouchability" shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

By that time a good number of States—the first was the allegedly orthodox State of Madras in 1938—had enacted statutes which penalised those who discriminated against untouchables in such a way as to deprive them of services or facilities which were available to the general public. But the penalties were not always very substantial, the scope was not always very broad, and many States were without such legislation in any form. The central Act now supersedes all the local Acts, and is a very thorough-going affair, punishing not merely acts but expressions of opinion: it strikes at the root of the institution it is meant to kill. Since India is supposed to be a "secular State" and since untouchability stems from superstition it is rather strange that the religious susceptibilities of a not altogether negligible section of the Hindu population should have been dismissed so summarily: but where religion and politics conflict it seems that the latter takes precedence; unless it is truer to say that a reformed and more convenient religious spirit has won a victory over antiquity.

What is little-known is the precise nature of "untouchability," and before it disappears into history it may be worth while to give an account of it. No one appears to have written of it sympathetically, and even Dr. P. V. Kane, the greatest authority on the "sacred laws" of the Hindus, speaks of it apologetically as a feature which makes the Hindus of the nineteenth and earlier centuries and the race-maniacs of every continent in our own day spiritual kindred. Yet the institution is merely an exaggerated form of social exclusiveness, all the elements of which can be traced historically to objective causes, and it is pure fantasy to attribute it to malice, exploitation or just hard-hearted cruelty.

*Asprisyatva*, or "unfitness to be touched," was a notion which crystallised in about the tenth and eleventh centuries in our era. India was then already committed to the rigid compartmentalised type of society which we know as "caste." Dealings between the groups were conventionalised, and individuals did not, as a rule, try to escape from the pattern into which they were born. A low-caste man who carried an umbrella over his own head, or a low-caste lad who secretly courted a Brahmin girl were respectively liable to be thrashed and murdered, as not merely usurping privileges of others, but attempting to turn the world upside-down. Not merely jealousy but fear inspired these reprisals, which are by no means unknown in rural areas to this day. Attempts to justify the ethical peculiarities of Aryan, or sub-Aryan society, which had worn somewhat thin after two and a half millenia under Indian geographical and ethnical conditions, preoccupied religious leaders and jurists, who found that "things as they are" were capable of an esoteric explanation. Religion and prudence were not found to be at cross-purposes. The great mixture which had taken place between the descend-

ants of the Aryans and local indigenous peoples throughout India had not in fact made the former more ready to face complete assimilation, but more sensitive to the differences in culture between themselves and those on the fringes of their society and to the possibility that if they were not extremely careful their cultural heritage with its intellectual, artistic and magical as well as spiritual content would be lost beyond recall.

There were two sorts of foreign communities which could not be allowed to mix freely with Hindus, if the distinct character of the latter was to be maintained: the *mlecchas* and the *chandalas*. The former were principally the forest and hill tribes, who though they might be culturally inferior in some cases to their Hindu neighbours were indifferent to their contempt and dealt with them as equals. They were terrible people, some of whom were quite capable of fighting single-handed with tigers, and their standards of life bore little relationship to those of the Hindus. *Mlecchas* coming on business or out of curiosity or for study from China, South-East Asia, Iran or Rome were only a little more tolerable than the more familiar *mlecchas* in that one might be able to have some common interest with them and there might be some exchange of ideas. Chinese pilgrims at Nalanda and Greek merchants at Pondicherry probably had none but pleasant dealings with the local public. But admission to social familiarity was out of the question. Only those who had nothing to lose would be seen eating with a Persian or a Portuguese at the table. This was not merely because the Hindu civilisation was replete with formalities which took much study to learn but because the proximity of such persons was "polluting" in itself. This notion is derived from the history of the dealings of Hindus with the *chandalas*.

These peoples lived within the pale of Hindu society but were not part of it. They were clearly the descendants of conquered aboriginal tribes, whose traditional ways of life were quite different from, and therefore revolting to, "caste" Hindus. For example, some *chandalas* had a taste for the flesh of dogs ("dog-cooker" was one of the names for "untouchable" in Sanskrit!), a taste which is probably not due to an insufficiently wide choice of diet. They were content to perform menial tasks, sweeping, scavenging, carrying out the dead, keeping burning-grounds, holding the office of executioner, and so on. No sort of dirty occupation was beneath them, and they monopolised all of them.

The story does not end here. Naturally those *chandalas* had to have their own shops, their own shrines, their own watering places. But there were other untouchables who were not so desperately humiliated—yet they were untouchable. These were of two sorts: the workers at despised and ritually unclean trades, and those suffering from temporary or adventitious untouchability. The professions of leatherworker or butcher, and even of goldsmith, for example, were of low esteem, and the castes who practised them were untouchable. Varieties of attitude on this subject are found throughout India, and although the basic concept is the same everywhere, the details of the rules differ widely. Generally speaking if one of these people, even if he had given up working in leather, etc.,

should accidentally touch a caste Hindu, except in some national emergency or in a pressing mob or narrow thoroughfare, the latter would have to take a bath. The same rule applied if one touched people of any caste who were suffering from pollution owing to the death of a relative, to the birth of a child in the family, or in the case of women to their monthly illness. This pollution, of a purely superstitious character, was as contagious as the permanent uncleanness of a *mleccha*.

With rather more reason the Hindus insisted that a person who was guilty of a grave sin was untouchable until he had performed his penance (*prayashchitta*). He could not take part in any social functions and no one of his family might go near him. His situation was indeed terrible, and this total exclusion of the sinner brought about a sense of shame which was extremely serviceable in a country where the criminal courts were often looked upon with scepticism. If a sinner refused or was unable to perform the prescribed penance he was out-casted, and thus joined the ranks of the *chandalas*. The natural feeling of disgust for one who has not expiated a sin led to excommunication or complete boycott, and to this day a particularity about whom one will associate with is a characteristic of a Hindu who has not come under western influence—a sensitiveness which cannot but be praised.

That the various classes of *chandalas* or the hill-tribes should be excluded from access to shops, cafes, picture-houses, haircutting saloons and so on, and that they should not be allowed to wear shoes, or walk in certain streets or to come within a given distance of a caste Hindu, did not strike educated Hindus as unjust or unfair. Nor does it seem to have worried the untouchables themselves for a thousand years. When Hindus began to doubt whether one's station in this life is really due to one's conduct in previous lives the matter took on a different appearance. Some untouchables became wealthy enough and vocal enough to be effectively discontented. A constitutional position was given to them, and a novel quasi-corporate recognition as the "Scheduled Castes" when the Government of India Act of 1935 accorded them separate representation in the Legislative Assembly. This was their chance. Under their spirited leader, Dr. Ambedkar, they began to press for complete equality. At last they have won it.

The new Act strikes not merely at untouchability by birth but also at temporary untouchability, which is in modern times a much less serious matter. Excommunication has not been forbidden in general (as it has been in Bombay State), but the effects of excommunication are indirectly much mitigated. Whereas the courts of British India would not interfere in a caste dispute unless a civil right had been prejudiced, and would always respect religious and social customs if they did not actually deprive an individual of an existing right at law, the Act inhibits the courts from passing any decree which would be contrary to the provisions of the Act itself, and in this way a notorious weakness of the existing law is cured. Penalties are imposed on any person who prevents an untouchable from entering

a temple, using a sacred tank or spring, buying food or services in a shop or restaurant, using utensils kept in a public restaurant or rest-house, practising a trade or profession, using any public facility, benefiting from a public trust in favour of persons of the same religion, observing a social custom or attending a religious procession, wearing particular ornaments, entering a hospital as a patient or a school as a scholar; or molests anyone who attempts to enjoy any of the rights declared in the Constitution or in the Act. Boycotting persons by reason of their having exercised such rights is now a criminal offence. Taking part in excommunicating people for their having refused to "practise untouchability" is also heavily penalised. And if by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, a person incites anyone to practise untouchability in any form whatsoever, he is liable to be fined Rs. 500 and to be imprisoned for six months.

It may be several decades before this medicine begins to take effect, but the dose is evidently quite strong enough. We have seen that local magistrates are not keen to outrage feeling and to provoke riots by enforcing such rules, but the High Courts are not so apprehensive, and in due course, if need be, "backward" sections of the Hindu community are to be forcibly enlightened. Indians outside India, whether in Ceylon, Burma, Fiji, Guiana, the West Indies or South and East Africa have been able to live without the institution and the mother country must learn to do the same.

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## Decline of French Power in Viet Nam

By E. H. Rawlings

A DECISIVE stage was marked in the decline of French influence in Viet Nam with the announcement last December that the Vietnamese piastre would belong to the dollar bloc. It also confirmed the continually growing ascendancy of the United States over the non-Communist South of the divided country. The decline of the French, and the corresponding growth of American, influence constitute two of the three most salient features of the Vietnamese scene since the Geneva Conference of July 1954. The other is the growth of the Chinese, and to a lesser extent of Soviet, influence over North Viet Nam.

Generally speaking, the defeat of France in the Indo-China war has not brought independence to either northern or southern Viet Nam in its broadest sense. The military, economic and political power exerted by the French in the country has now been replaced by Sino-Russian power in the North and American power in the South; and in both cases the new external power has taken a mainly economic form. France is now in a position whereby she has to maintain relations with both North and South Viet Nam, under somewhat contrasting circumstances.

Since the partition of the country French policy towards

Viet Nam has been hard to define. While France has given full recognition to the anti-French regime of Ngo Dinh Diem in the South, she has maintained a negotiating mission in the North, which appeared at times to suggest that the long-term policy of the French was in favour of relations with the Communist rather than the Nationalist authorities in Viet Nam. The reason for the French attitude is that M. Mendès-France was guided by the terms of power. It appeared that he believed the South could be written off and that any chances of safeguarding French interests should be explored in the North, which would eventually dominate all Viet Nam. But owing to more pressing problems France was unable to pay close attention to Indo-China and to meet the expenses of the French Expeditionary Corps or to bear the full burden of economic aid to the South. Therefore, the United States has gradually taken over the control of the Vietnamese National Army under an agreement with France. The number of French instructors and officers have been gradually reduced.

Moreover, a series of agreements between France and the three former Associated States signed on 29 December 1954 ended the Indo-China Customs union set up in December 1950. They also enabled the Vietnamese,



Laotian and Cambodian Governments to issue their own currencies, while South Viet Nam acquired the right to receive American aid direct in dollars, instead of in francs through France. In the South these agreements were the beginning of replacing French influence by American influence. The defeat of the French in the North left several important French industrial and commercial interests in northern Viet Nam, besides various cultural institutions. Thus, the French mission in the North under M. Jean Sainteny had two objectives. The first was to provide safeguards for French enterprises and cultural institutions remaining in the North. The other was a political one for M. Sainteny believed that there was a possibility of turning President Ho Chi Minh into a Vietnamese Tito, and of persuading a reunited Viet Nam to remain within a revised French Union. In order to encourage the Viet Minh regime to follow a neutralist path, which he considered best for France and the West as a whole, M. Sainteny favoured a programme of economic aid for the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to prevent the Viet Minh turning to China and Russia for assistance.

Unfortunately, France was not in a position to do this because of her own preoccupations elsewhere and the free hand which had been given the Americans in the South. Furthermore, most of the French enterprises left because they were unwilling to commit their future to co-operation with the Viet Minh. The result in the economic field has been that the Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin was transferred in April 1955 to the Viet Minh against an indemnity of one million tons of coal to be delivered over a period of fifteen years. A second agreement signed on 2 June transferred the equipment of the French public transport company in Hanoi to the Hanoi municipal authorities for a sum of about £300,000. A trade agreement was signed between France and the Viet Nam Democratic Republic (V.D.R.) on 14 October providing for trade exchanges of about £1 million each way. The purpose of this agreement is to enable French firms to maintain ties with North Viet Nam. But strategic materials are excluded from the French commitments under the agreement in order to conform with American wishes, and with the United Nations embargo on the export of strategic materials to China as the V.D.R. is considered as an entrepot area for China.

French co-operation with the V.D.R. has been more successful in the cultural field. The Pasteur Institute in Hanoi continues to function under the general supervision of the V.D.R. Ministry of Health and with the help of a Viet Minh subsidy. The University remains open and so has the Lycée Albert Sarraut. The alteration which the Viet Minh has requested in the teaching curriculum of the Lycée is that pupils should be taught less French and more Vietnamese history and geography, and that the finishing examination should be of a standard to allow successful candidates to continue to be eligible for admission to French universities and other higher educational institutions. This state of affairs is unlikely to continue indefinitely, but Frenchmen welcome the opportunity to educate the Vietnamese youth on non-Communist lines.

Since the end of the Indo-China war French relations with the Viet Minh have greatly improved. This is illustrated by the fact that last autumn the V.D.R. Government requested the French not to withdraw the remnants of the Expeditionary Corps in order that the Geneva agreements be safeguarded. On the other hand, French relations have continued to deteriorate with the South, both in the economic field and in personal and inter-governmental contacts. The reasons for this deterioration are: the general anti-French bias of the Diem Government; the support given by individual Frenchmen to the Binh Xuyen and Hoa Hao sects during the fighting in and around Saigon last spring; the activities of the American advisers of Mr. Diem; South Viet Nam's unfavourable trade balance with France and dwindling reserves of francs; and the French policy towards the V.D.R. Franco-Vietnamese commerce has deteriorated on a rational rather than a nationalist basis. Commercial relations between the two countries are based on a one-year preferential tariff agreement signed on 30 December 1954, which allowed for free monetary transfers and unlimited trade between France and South Viet Nam. But the fall in rice output in the South and the shortage of francs made the agreement partly inoperative. The expenses of the French Expeditionary Corps in Viet Nam totalled between £170 million and £180 million in 1954; this sum more than sufficed to bridge the gap between the 10 milliards' worth of Vietnamese exports to France and the 90 milliards' worth of imports from France. In 1955 the cost of the Expeditionary Corps was reduced by more than two-thirds, but American dollar aid enabled Viet Nam to maintain trade with France at a high level. But as French prices are not competitive with those of Germany and Japan, the result has been that Franco-Vietnamese trade has since steadily declined. Thus, the French share of Vietnamese imports, which used to be 70 per cent. will be only 35 this year.

Since a southern Vietnamese mission went to Paris last July to discuss Franco-Vietnamese differences, relations between the two countries have sharply deteriorated, and on 29 October Mr. Diem suddenly denounced the Franco-Vietnamese monetary agreement. Ever since, the Vietnamese Government has refused to discuss the question with France unless Franco-Vietnamese commercial relations are placed on a more practical basis and France withdraws the Sainteny mission from Hanoi. Failure to conclude a new agreement will place France in an inferior position as regards Customs dues, as compared with countries such as Japan, with which the Vietnamese Republic has commercial accords.

It seems unlikely that France will ever regain the preponderant share of Vietnamese trade, even if French prices are lowered. So long as Mr. Diem is in office South Viet Nam will continue for a unlimited time to be economically and politically dependent on the United States. However, the aim of American administration is to speed-up the economic recovery and development of South Viet Nam so that she can become free from United States assistance over a set period of time. How long this aim will take to achieve is yet too early to forecast.



## Is Australasian Strategy Adaptable?

From Charles Meeking (EASTERN WORLD Correspondent in Canberra)

**R**ECENTLY the only full-blood Australian aborigine ever to secure a commission in the Australian army, Lieut. (temporary Captain) Reg. Saunders, resigned his commission because he felt the National Service training scheme in which he was making his army career was inadequate and unsatisfactory.

Lieut. Saunders, a veteran of Greece, Crete, New Guinea and Korea, considered the present training of little value. He suggested publicly that all trainees should serve six months straight under service conditions, preferably in New Guinea. If this were done, he believed they could be enrolled at once, as fully trained and efficient, on a "reserve" now estimated to comprise 190,000 men.

He may or may not be right. It is certain that many people believe, as he does, that National Service training in Australia, despite its cost, lags far behind modern requirements. The real moral of the incident is that many Australians see symptoms of wider inability to cope with changed conditions. It is considered in some quarters that conservatism now entrenched in the army is reflected in the higher defence ranks with vested interests in preservation of the status quo, and in the Government, despite the imperative need that major aspects of strategy should be constantly reviewed, and decided with a combination of imagination

and boldness, reinforced, of course, with complete information and the best available assessments of a changing and challenging situation. Confronted with rapid changes in world tensions, with major shifts of policy emphasis by the big Powers, and with the development of fantastic weapons which seem to make defence plans out of date almost as soon as they are framed, the Australian Government faces a major dilemma in adjusting its strategic plans.

That Government, and the Government of New Zealand, may be cognisant of all the problems involved. No one can be really sure even of this, because of the smoke screen of security. The Prime Minister, speaking last year on defence, said with an air of mystery that "confidential and intimate discussions cannot readily be made public." Even if all the facts are known to the Cabinet, however, it is pertinent to wonder if the Government is prepared for the political, financial and diplomatic reassessments involved in changes. Elasticity of outlook is not usually a feature of administrations which have been in office for more than six years. Current economic difficulties alone might make Ministers pause before deciding on major upsets of programmes and production.

Australia and New Zealand are now operating in close consultation on strategy and defence. The areas of



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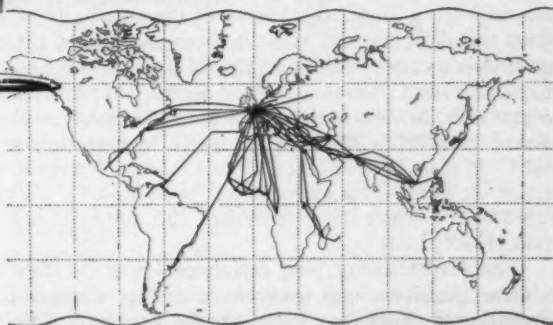
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immediate concern to them, including their own territories and those administered by them, are about 4,000 miles wide, and reach from the Equator to the South Pole. This is an immense responsibility for less than 11 million people. The only possible enemies in the foreseeable future are Russia and Communist China, and the dual problem is how to counter Communist advances in South-East Asia through "cold war" activities and how to resist any military attack in the event of global war, while assisting SEATO, Anzus and Anzam allies in such an event. These problems have been faced, with success difficult to assess, during the last three or four years. Now the sudden diversion of tension to the Middle East, bringing the Indian Ocean at least as much into the Australasian strategic picture as the Pacific, poses new and difficult shifts of outlook. At the same time the Soviet's new policy in Asia must compel early review of the purposes and results of the Colombo Plan.

Latest public pronouncements by Ministers assert that an invasion of Australia is "in the highest degree unlikely, at least for some years to come, in view of the limited maritime capacity of the probable enemy." In making that statement last October, the Minister for Defence, Sir Philip McBride, admitted that the enemy possessed long-range submarines, but did not discuss the possibility that such craft could launch a devastating atomic attack on the major centres of population and industrial production, all of them along the coast. He spoke of the relation of the overall scheme for the defence of Australia and its territories to the threat, as assessed, and to the system of collective security and Allied strategy upon which the defence policy had been formulated. It was felt that, in a global war, the security of Australia (and New Zealand) would depend upon the outcome of major conflicts in the vital land areas of Europe, the Middle East and South-East Asia, against which the Communists were capable of launching land and air offences.

This view poses a variety of questions. What are the roles envisaged for the army, air force, navy and industrial production in Australia and New Zealand? What estimate has been made of the probable use in the Australasian area of modern guided missiles and atomic and nuclear weapons by friend and foe? What proportion of "defence" spending should be allotted to the defence services, and what proportion to the countering of Communist subversion in Asia? Does the migration programme help or hinder the defence of the area? To what extent will differences of views between the United States and Britain hamper effective defence of the area in the event of global war? What is the "depth" of Australian defence now, in view of developments in Malaya and elsewhere? (The Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, said last year: "If there is to be war for our existence, it should be carried on as far from our own soil as possible"). What would be the degree of co-operation with our allies in the event of global war?

Few Australians or New Zealanders know the answers to these questions, and many have doubts whether the Governments themselves know all the answers. This is

not to say that the Governments are not concerned, but it does suggest that there may be too much reliance on aspects of strategy which were important, and even vital, a year or two ago but are no longer part of the picture. Until recently, there was a fair degree of complacency concerning the effects felt to be created in Asia by the generous contributions to the Colombo Plan. The Russians have upset that theory, just as some Americans and others have injected a belief that nations, like people, are seldom grateful to their benefactors even when no ulterior motives are suspected. The other side of the "aid" programme was put forward nearly two years ago by Sir Ian Clunies Ross, when he suggested that external aid to South-East Asia should be £1,000 million a year in place of the present £100 million or so.

After presenting the arguments, after suggesting that Australians and others would probably accept sacrifices as gladly for the constructive purposes of peace as for the negative purpose of avoidance of war, he asked: "Would the Australian people contemplate such an investment in human welfare (£A40 million to £A50 million annually), even though their own future would thereby be secured, a large sector of the world fortified against Communism, and an impetus given to the expansion of trade and commerce in which they, in common with others, would share?" The response from Australia to this question was complete silence.

The purely military questions are also unanswered. Defence expenditure, although lagging behind the estimates, is still based in Australia alone at something like £200 million a year. Out of the as yet unspent allocation for this year, Mr. Casey recently offered the Asian partners of SEATO a total of £2 million. The first annual report of SEATO, presented at Karachi, declared that in the military sphere "there has been a definite increase in the overall capacity of member governments to resist armed aggression in the Treaty area."

This phrase may have satisfied some people in some of the Treaty countries, but it is not likely to have caused any great alarm in any of the potential enemies' camps. The final communique also found that the defence forces of member nations had been "appreciably improved since the signing of the Treaty, and are better equipped and deployed to act in an emergency," adding that joint military exercises had "pointed the way to further co-operative efforts for common defence."

The report, the communique and other statements, in fact, have been getting away from armed strategy, and have referred, vaguely but at great length, to the countering of subversion. In this field, it can be feared, the S.E.A.T.O. nations and others have been outwitted in many directions. If this is the main strategic conception in Canberra and some other capitals in this area, then there is little to show for it now, and likely to be less in the near future. Australia and New Zealand are in the centre of one of the world's great strategic areas of the future, embracing the Antarctic and a great part of Asia. Sound and firm decisions soon on strategy in it are crucial to them.

## ASIAN SURVEY

### PAKISTAN

#### Great Expectations

*From our Karachi Correspondent*

THE Karachi SEATO meeting was overshadowed at its commencement by an unusual combination of happenings—the affairs MCC, the anti-Mountbatten visit agitation (of whose virulence the British public may not, perhaps, be fully acquainted) the peremptory dismissal of Glubb to which Pakistan, as a member of the Baghdad alliance, was very sensitive, the completion of the Pakistan Constitution and, of course, the choice of Major-General Iskander Mirza as provisional President. As if all of this were not enough to crowd SEATO off the front page, the patent fact was that the people of Pakistan were not greatly interested in the subject, the reason being that for some time there has been a good deal of self-questioning as to whether Pakistan was getting value so far as its international commitments were concerned. The theory was widely circulated that SEATO and such like arrangements were nothing more than window-dressing intended by the United States Government to convince its citizens that they were getting something in return for the aid which is being dispensed and there the matter really ends.

Typical of the general feeling of the public as well as of the Pakistan Press was the effort of a weekly journal which marked the occasion by publishing a "Special SEATO Number" whose principal contents was a symposium entitled, significantly enough, "Is Our Foreign Policy a Failure?" Mr. Selwyn Lloyd succeeded in infusing life into the conference when, upon his arrival in Karachi, he expressed the view that the Kashmir dispute was not a suitable subject for discussion at the meeting. Pakistan reacted sharply and, as we now know, all that Mr. Selwyn Lloyd did by this injudicious expression of opinion was to irritate Pakistan without preventing the Kashmir problem from being discussed or from being mentioned in the final communiqué. It appears from Mr. Dulles' Press Conference in Delhi that the United States also took the view that Kashmir was not relevant to the SEATO meeting, but Mr. Dulles was wise enough not to say so on arrival in Karachi.

The fact that the final statement touched upon Kashmir and also upon Afghanistan, pleased Pakistan immensely and let loose a spate of compliments in praise of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister. That the paragraph in question was brief and couched in very guarded language, did not deter Pakistan from expressing its great jubilation nor has its pleasure been reduced because Mr. Dulles' explanations, later given in Delhi, were exactly appropriate to the tight-rope dancing in which the Western Powers have consistently indulged in relation to the Kashmir problem. The fact that India showed annoyance and was moved to protest convinced Pakistan that there was substance in what the paragraph said and morale rose accordingly.

At present, therefore, the confidence of Pakistan in SEATO has been restored and the tenor of current expression of opinion is that SEATO means something after all and that Pakistan must be loyal to such valuable alliances. This is all very well, but if time is again allowed to pass without any positive move in aid of Pakistan, the reaction will be inevitable and bitter. One thing must be taken as certain, namely, that on the strength of what SEATO countries have said on the question of Kashmir, Pakistan will expect material and definite support in the pursuit of their claims and any failure in this respect will be regarded in Pakistan as evidence of hypocrisy and will be treated as a clear betrayal of a sincere ally.

### MALAYA

#### Racial Issue

*From our Special Correspondent  
in Kuala Lumpur*

WHEN all the shouting is over there will be a sober realisation here that independence within the Commonwealth by 1957 will not mean very much unless: (a) the Communist revolt is ended and (b) the present racial harmony between the Malays and the Chinese can be maintained. What must be remembered is that the Alliance between the Malays and the Chinese politically was possible because both sides agreed to sink their several vital differences in order to present a solid front to the British for independence.

Now they have been promised independence. Soon will come the time to bring out those vital differences, to examine them and to solve them. The constitutional commission will endeavour to solve some of them, and already the Tunku has spoken about the need for a common Malayan nationality. There is also the problem of the national schools. Will the language for instruction in all schools be Malay? Or can the Chinese continue to have their own schools? Most Chinese in Malaya look proudly towards China. They are not willing to give up their Chinese culture: indeed, I personally know many Chinese, no longer young, who are taking lessons in the national Chinese language. China is a great nation again. The Chinese in Malaya, not unexpectedly, are proud to be Chinese. They are willing to be Malaysians; but they want, most of them, to be Chinese in Malaya, and they will certainly resist any attempt to force them becoming anything else. Education, therefore, can be expected to be a matter of considerable importance to them. Trading is another. Most of the trade and industry which is not in the hands of the British is in the hands of the Chinese. I do not know of one single rich Malay. I know many very wealthy Chinese. This is a state of affairs the Malays would like to alter, and the Chinese will watch any attempt to discriminate with awareness.

But probably, for the time being, the most urgent matter in Malaya will be the Communist revolt. If the rank and file of



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the Communist Party are allowed to come back into normal society once again and to take up their political activities as non-Communists, industrial trouble can be expected. There will be ample opportunity for exploitation of genuine grievances. The Federal Government, for example, has refused to go to arbitration over a claim by Government clerks for increased pay. A big company refused to recognise a properly organised trade union and decided to close down rather than move with the times. There are other instances which indicate that the believers in democracy are taking an awful chance by not solving these grievances now. If they are left for the ex-Communists to seize upon (after the former guerilla fighters are allowed to mingle again), these grievances and complaints can be the source of a great deal of trouble. One thing seems to be certain: and that is that within the next eighteen months before independence the left wing will be organised, probably on the lines of the Peoples Action Party in Singapore. The promise of self-government has freed the nationalists from their national front; party politics will soon come into their own. Malaya's great threat, second only to the Communist menace, is the possibility that the racial parties—the Malayan Chinese Association, the Malayan Indian Congress and the United Malays National Organisation, will continue, after independence, to wield influence. So long as they do, the grave danger of racial strife will continue to exist, and non-racial political parties will have their work cut out to struggle against this.

## AUSTRALIA

### Views on Indonesia

*By our Canberra Correspondent*

**A**USTRALIANS are becoming rather uneasily aware that their own future may be intimately associated with three areas of current international dispute—the Middle East (including the Suez Canal), the Antarctic, and Dutch New Guinea (West Irian). On the whole, it seems that they know less about Indonesian-Dutch relationships, and their causes and effects, than about the other two problems, although Indonesia is Australia's nearest foreign neighbour and increasingly important to Australian import and export trade. (The Indonesian archipelago, of course, is a major but imponderable factor in Australian defence planning, but this is never mentioned publicly).

The breakdown of the Indonesian-Dutch negotiations at Geneva was reported in Australian newspapers with little or no explanation. However, one usually well-informed commentator wrote, just before the announcement of Indonesia's unilateral abrogation of the Union, that Australia, and probably the United States, were critical of Dutch intransigence and might now support the Indonesian case for West Irian. "It is argued," he wrote, "that friendly relations with Indonesia can be based only on some deal over West New Guinea, and that in the event of a crisis in Asia it would be no advantage, and perhaps even a liability, for this territory to remain in Dutch hands. In Washington, it is accepted as fundamental that Australian policy must be bent towards keeping Indonesia as a friendly buffer and a trading partner."

This view, so much at variance with earlier official Australian policy, received no official confirmation in Canberra. It was in fact, an over-simplification of an undoubted official trend in Australia towards greater appreciation of Indonesian arguments and restraint, as well as closer examination of defence and economic aspects of policy. This trend had been strengthened recently by the election results in Indonesia (despite the size of the Communist vote), and by a feeling that the coalition Government expected to take office in Djakarta could prove co-operative in its policies—within the limits imposed by an Indonesian public opinion still wary of too close association with the West and deeply opposed to participation in any *bloc*. The article, however, provoked a curious incident with far-reaching implications. In the Senate in Canberra a Senator George Rankin, a light horse major-general of World War I, sought a statement on Australia's position "for the benefit of our friends the Dutch" and proceeded to refer to "the gang of pro-Japanese quislings in Indonesia who want to thief Dutch New Guinea." Coming at the moment of Dutch reversal of earlier agreement with Indonesia at Geneva and Dutch refusal to accept the Indonesian proposal of postponement of discussions on West Irian, the outburst provoked a sudden flurry of parliamentary and diplomatic activity in Canberra. Senator Rankin's remarks had been broadcast all over Australia, as the Senate was "on the air," and had been cabled abroad. However, it was then decided they had been out of order, and they were not rebroadcast. The Minister of External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, promptly and publicly apologised to President Sukarno and the Indonesian Government for the remarks by Senator Rankin (a private member but a Government supporter), which, he said, "are wholly unjustified and are repudiated by the Australian Government in the strongest terms."

This was far from the end of the matter. Senator Rankin announced that he not only offered no apology, but was "untouched at his own moderation." He referred to congratulations which he said had been offered by Dr. Sukarno to the Japanese when Singapore fell in 1942, and to the acceptance of a Japanese honour. The Leader of the Opposition, Dr. H. V. Evatt, came into the picture by describing Mr. Casey's apology as "a diplomatic and constitutional gaffe," and by claiming that criticism by a senator in the Senate, even if unfair, unjust, or violent, should not be stifled. He added that he strongly favoured the cultivation and improvement of relations with Indonesia, and that Mr. Casey would be better employed bringing the Indonesian-Dutch dispute to the attention of the United Nations. Mr. Casey's rejoinder quoted May's Parliamentary Practice which held out of order any "opprobrious reflections" on rulers and governments of "dominions or countries in amity with Her Majesty." He added that if "raw and unbridled comment" of this character were to become the



order of the day in Parliament, "then the maintenance of rational relations would become impossible, and the cause of peace would be imperilled."

There was curiously little newspaper comment, reflecting the general lack of knowledge. One small daily which has consistently supported the Dutch claim in New Guinea suggested that Senator Rankin might have been justified by facts. This, of course, ignored some basic considerations, including the fact that at the time of the fall of Singapore Dr. Sukarno was still imprisoned in Sumatra. It ignored, also, the understandable wartime view in Indonesia that Japanese or any other help would be accepted if it promoted the eventual struggle for independence from the Dutch, no matter how reprehensible such acceptance might appear to Holland's allies. It completely overlooked as well the bitterness which prevailed in Indonesia against the Japanese by the time the war ended.

## CEYLON

### Buddha Jayanthi Preparations

*By our Colombo Correspondent*

CEYLON will invite the Dalai Lama, spiritual head of Tibet, three kings, a crown prince and eight Asian Prime Ministers to attend the Buddha Jayanthi celebrations in May commemorating the 2,500th anniversary of the birth of the Buddha. Altogether more than 50,000 Buddhists from all over the world will flock to Ceylon for the celebrations. Besides the Dalai Lama, the specially invited guests will be the Kings of Siam, Laos and Cambodia, the Crown Prince of Japan, and the Prime Ministers of India, Burma, Thailand, Japan, Laos, Cambodia, Viet-Nam and Nepal.

The celebrations in the island will be part of a world wide celebration in which the six million Ceylon Buddhists will be joined by five hundred million of their co-religionists in fifty countries. It will be a unique event, unparalleled in its vastness and grandeur. Ceylon will be the main centre of the celebrations because she is the acknowledged leader of the Buddhist World. While the religion faded away almost completely in India, the land of the Buddha's birth, a few centuries after his death, it was in Ceylon that his teaching was preserved in a pure form and radiated throughout the world. It is also in Ceylon that the most important relics of the Buddha are found. The famous Tooth of the Buddha is at Dalada Palace, Kandy, his collar-bone is enshrined in the Thuparama Stupa, and other relics are enshrined in the Ruwanveliseya, Mirisaveti and Abhayagiri Dagobas.

The Jayanthi celebrations will begin throughout the world on Vesak Full Moon Day on May 23rd, under the auspices of the World Fellowship of Buddhists. In Ceylon it will be continued till May 1957. Preparations for the Jayanthi began in Ceylon two years ago with the inauguration of the Lanka Buddha Mandalaya (Buddhist Council) at Colombo. This Council comprises representatives of the Government, The Sangha (Buddhist hierarchy) and laymen, and is responsible for organising the celebrations. The Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, is its President. The Government has already given the Council 5 million rupees, and promised more later, for the celebrations. This money will be used among other things to build a new temple at Kandy for the Buddha's Tooth (Rs. 1 million), restore ancient shrines and temples, decorate

and illuminate government buildings and publish books on Buddhism.

The publications planned include a 10 volume Buddhist Encyclopaedia in English, another in Sinhalese, and a 27 volume Sinhalese translation of the Pali Tri Pitaka (doctrine). Altogether Rs. 1,500,000 will be spent on this biggest ever literary undertaking in the island. One of the highlights of the celebrations will be the donning of yellow robes (worn only by Buddhist monks) by 2,500 laymen for three months. The Prime Minister is expected to observe this ritual.

To facilitate the observance of these religious rites, all "poya" days (full moon day of each month) as well as May 20th to 30th will be public holidays. In Colombo there will be an international synod of Buddhists and international exhibition of Buddhist art. A special series of postage stamps will be issued. Efforts are also being made to ban drinking and gambling and to suspend the death penalty and slaughter of animals for meat during the Jayanthi.

The celebrations promise to be the greatest ever held in Ceylon and may well touch off a Buddhist revival not only in the island but throughout the world.

### Letters to the Editor

Sir,—The leading article "Time for Decision in Malaya" which appears in your March issue, makes some picturesque references about "revolts", "the rebel cause" and "rebels". This swashbuckling style is apparently intended to conceal the true identity of the 3,000 Communist terrorists in Malaya, and I feel it would be as well if your readers were reminded that they are indeed terrorists, and Communists, and no amount of literary licence will disguise the fact.

Their sole aim and job since they caused the creation of a State of Emergency eight years ago has been to disrupt the Malayan economy and terrorise her people, to create a situation in which the Government would collapse and they would be able to establish their aim—a Communist State of Malaya.

I would also like to point out that in their efforts, the terrorists have killed and wounded several thousands of their own countrymen—Malays, Chinese and Indians, men and women, indiscriminately.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BATTEN,

Information Officer.

Malaya House,  
London, W.C.2.

Sir,—Both Professor MacMahon Ball on the B.B.C. recently and J. W. T. Cooper in your March issue have spoken of the wrong western approach in offering technical and economic aid to the countries of Asia. They both make the point that the objective in offering aid is to bring about an alteration in the distribution of power between the Communists and the west. Well, why not? If we can get Asian countries to accept our goods and equipment we create markets for ourselves which will continue, and in this way countries will turn to the west and not to Communist countries. And I do not see why Asian countries should worry about accepting western aid. Political considerations need not come into it. Business circles here have never seemed to possess a political conscience when dealing in foreign trade in the past, why should they start now. My criticism of the Americans is that they have been too ham-fisted, and got people's backs up in Asia. I say let us create markets in the East so that the countries there will look to the free world and not to the Communist world.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE A. COLEMAN.

Manchester.

# FROM ALL QUARTERS

## Asian Nuclear Centre to be erected in the Philippines

The International Cooperation Administration (ICA) announced last month that the Philippines has been chosen as the site for the new Asian nuclear centre, the reason for this being that it best met the requirements of accessible local facilities, ease of access and communication. The United States contribution to the centre is estimated at about \$20 million.

The centre was proposed by the United States at the Colombo Plan meeting in Singapore last October. Detailed plans for it will be presented at the Colombo Plan meeting at Wellington, New Zealand, next October. Meanwhile, the United States is preparing to move rapidly with the initial phases for the establishment of the centre.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Brookhaven National Laboratory will develop preliminary technical proposals as to how the centre can best serve the needs of the region. The Brookhaven Laboratory, which serves as a cooperative regional unit for the facilities of nine U.S. universities, will send survey teams of experts to inspect possible sites in the Philippines and to consult with scientists and government officials in Asia.

It was envisaged at the Singapore Conference that the Asian nuclear centre would supplement existing facilities for the basic training of engineers, chemists and physicians at the college level. It would also offer facilities for research in medicine, agriculture and industry. An important function would be to provide training for instructors and teachers in nuclear science for other Asian educational institutions. The centre would also serve as a convenient meeting place for international conferences of scientists, government officials, industrialists, and others interested in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

## The Scandinavian Hospital in Korea

K. Okkenhaug, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official, has been chosen secretary-general of the secretariat for the Scandinavian hospital to be established in Korea. The secretariat will have its seat in Oslo. At a meeting of the Scandinavian planning committee detailed plans for the hospital were considered. It will be erected in Seoul, and will train Korean doctors. It is hoped that the hospital will be ready in 1958.

## Shanghai Sends Last Rickshaw to Museum

The last two rickshaws in Shanghai have been sent to the museum by the Communications Bureau. The rickshaw, which was introduced to that city from Japan in 1874, is no longer used there.

At the end of the civil war there were 5,000 rickshaws in Shanghai with 7,000 rickshaw pullers. With the increase in public vehicles after liberation, the city government systematically helped the rickshaw pullers to get other jobs. Many of them have become automobile drivers, skilled workers or joined agricultural production. The aged and homeless were sent to rest homes.

## Air Link with Eastern Europe

A direct air service between the United Kingdom and Czechoslovakia will be in operation this month when Air-India will introduce Prague on their U.K./India route. It will be the only non-stop service from Britain to Eastern Europe.

## "Eighty per cent of Chinese in India Anti-Red"

Yu Hsu-hsien, a Chinese civic leader in India, who reached Taipei recently, declared that "80 per cent of the 18,000 Chinese in India supported the Government of the Republic of China." Deported from India for anti-Communist activities, Yu was welcomed by Tjong Hoen-jni, a business and Chinese civic

leader from Jakarta, who was expelled by Indonesia in 1954 for "pro-free China" activities.

A native of Kwangtung, in southern China, Yu, Hsu-hsien was head of the Federation of Chinese Association, director of the Chinese newspaper *India Rally*, and head of the Chienkuo elementary school in Calcutta. He had lived in Calcutta for more than 17 years.

## "Shangri-La" is Wet, Bitter Place

In Australian New Guinea, the Administration has set up base camps at two places in the Buna country of the Southern Highlands, where the so-called "Shangri-la" valley was discovered last year.

The Director of the Department of Native Affairs, Mr. Roberts, says that close contact has been established with the 8,000 Papuans in the region, which is the largest of the few unadministered areas in New Guinea. The officer directing field-work in the area, Patrol-Officer Sinclair, says the native people have readily accepted the suggestion that they settle all outstanding differences among themselves. They are exchanging pigs and shells, which is the traditional way of ending feuds.

When Patrol-Officer Sinclair returned from a visit to Labani Valley, before called "Shangri-La", he described it as the coldest and wettest place he had ever known. He said the bitter and inhospitable nature of the valley was reflected in the character of its inhabitants.

## Preservation of Monuments in Indonesia

Professor Paul Coremans, Director of the Central Laboratory for Belgian Museums, arrived recently in Indonesia on a two-month mission to study problems concerning the preservation of ancient monuments. The mission was organized by Unesco, at the request of the Indonesian Government, under a new programme designed to serve countries in fields not covered by the UN world programme of technical assistance.

Professor Coremans will devote most of his time to a survey of the group of Buddhist temples and palaces at Borobudur, in Java, which date back to the 8th and 9th centuries A.D. He will examine damage caused to the stone of buildings and statues by exposure to the atmosphere, and suggest techniques for restoration.

## Mr. Menon on Nuclear Tests in Marshall Islands

Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, India's Minister with Portfolio said in New York that the U.S.A. had no right to destroy homes of Marshall islanders with nuclear tests "except with their consent and which they have not given."

In a radio press conference, Mr. Menon said that the Government of India felt that legal opinion on using the area as a bomb site should be obtained from the World Court. He said the Court had been by-passed on the question of nuclear tests but the question was coming up again because Marshall islanders were protesting to the UN Trusteeship Council.

"Our Government has been in favour of doing everything to reconsider these problems," he said. The U.S.A. had a sacred trust to the area since it was a Trust territory, he added.

## Japan will pay compensation to Holland

Japan has agreed to pay 10 million dollars to the Netherlands in compensation for the internment of 110,000 Dutch civilians in Indonesia during the war.

The agreement to this effect was signed on March 12 by the

Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shigemitsu, and the Netherlands Ambassador, Jhr. O. Reuchlin. Payment will be spread over five years and will be made in sterling.

The agreement brings to an end negotiations which first began last autumn. The Netherlands had claimed 27.5 million dollars, meaning about 250 dollars for every ex-internee. The protocol now signed requires parliamentary approval in both countries, and will enter into force as soon as this has been obtained. It is expected to contribute to the strengthening of friendly relations between Japan and the Netherlands.

#### Record ILO Aid to Asia

The International Labour Organization reports that it gave more technical aid to Asia in 1955 than in any previous year. Almost 50 per cent of the requests were for manpower surveys and job training.

High priority in teaching skills was given to the repair and maintenance of mechanical equipment. At one centre in Formosa, which the agency helped to equip, nearly 700 mechanics were trained in 1955 with the aid of ILO instructors.

During the year, the number of ILO experts working in the Asian region rose to more than 70, compared with a high of 55 in 1954.

#### Electric Power Urgent Need in Asia-Far East Region

The problems and prospects of developing adequate supplies of electric power in the world's most populous region were discussed this month by 50 experts from 14 countries who attended meetings in Bangalore of the Electric Power Subcommittee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission pointed out that, with more than half the world's population, the region was producing only slightly more than 6 per cent of the world's electric power supply. Most countries in the area lacked adequate electricity to cope with the expansion of industry and agriculture.

In the course of the discussions, representatives of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States outlined their present achievements and future plans in the development of electric power from nuclear energy. All expressed their willingness to share their experience with other countries. It was generally recognized by the Commission, however, that another ten to fifteen years would be required before the production of electricity from nuclear energy would become economical.

A working party to review the hydroelectric potential of the region will be convened by the Commission later this year and electric power experts from Asia will visit Europe and the United States under the auspices of the UN Technical Assistance Programme.

## LONDON NOTEBOOK

#### Mr. Ikramullah on Pakistan's Progress

Speeches on economic subjects are often better read than heard. The speech that the Pakistani High Commissioner in London, Mr. Ikramullah made the other week to the Royal Society of Arts, was too full of facts and figures about trade and industry to have made much immediate impression on the audience, but no one who has read it in print can have failed to be struck by the tremendous all-round industrial progress that Pakistan has achieved in

the last few years. An illustration of this progress is the fact that in the last five years' expenditure in the public sector has been to the tune of £276 million. Expenditure on development increased from £31 million in 1951 to £83 million in 1955. In the private sector £150 million was invested. Mr. Ikramullah said that the speed of Pakistan's industrial development had been greater than what even the most optimistic planners had envisaged. He added: "Already Pakistan is regarded as a

semi-industrialised country and her economy, which was purely agricultural in 1947, has passed from instability to a position of growing strength." This change is having its effect on Pakistan's foreign trade and there has been a sharp fall in the amount of imports, especially of cotton piece goods.

Mr. Ikramullah said that participation by foreign capital is permitted in Pakistan up to 60 per cent of the total investment in approved industries. The case of public utility concerns is considered on merit and

#### Foundation Stone of "Science House" laid in Pakistan

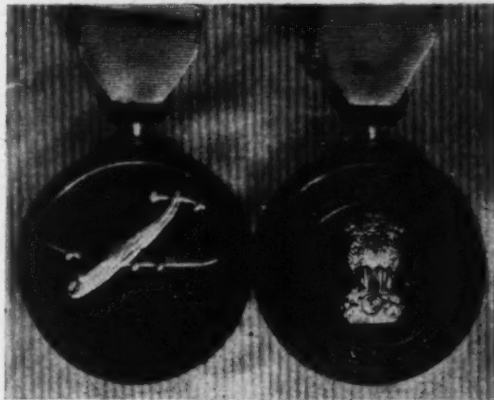
The foundation stone of a national science institute, which will eventually house a library of some 250,000 scientific works, was laid last month at Lahore, in West Pakistan. Representatives from Australia, India, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., and the United States attended the ceremony. Construction of the institute is expected to be completed within a year.

The new institute will be known as the Ismail Science House (Ismail Aiwani-Science) after the late Shri Mohammad Ismail, benefactor of the project. It will fulfil the need for a central meeting place for scientists and will provide Pakistan with its first comprehensive scientific library, which is being planned in consultation with Unesco.

Besides the library, the Ismail Science House will accommodate a bibliographic and documentation centre, a modern auditorium, offices for scientific societies, and residential quarters for visiting scientists.

#### Indian Medal for Indonesians

At an elaborate ceremony held at President's Palace in Djakarta on February 22, the Indian Ambassador Mr. B. F. H. B. Tyabji, presented specially struck medallions and cash awards to the five Indonesian islanders who helped in the rescue of survivors from the Indian airliner "Kashmir Princess."



which crashed in Indonesian waters last year. The aircraft was carrying Chinese delegates to the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung. The British Government announced recently that the plane was sabotaged by a Nationalist Chinese while it was re-fuelling at Hong Kong.

The photograph shows the two sides of the medallion which was presented to each of the five islanders at the ceremony. The inscription on the medallion reads: "For gallantry and humanity shown to the survivors of the Indian airliner 'Kashmir Princess' which crashed in Indonesian waters on 12.4.55."



the proportion of foreign capital that can be invested in them is decided separately in each case. "I believe you will concede that these concessions can be regarded as fair, or even generous, by any standards," the High Commissioner remarked, adding that it was the Government's policy to give all encouragement to foreign investors. (A short note on the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation appears in *Review of Reviews* on page 26.)

#### An Impression of Burma

At a luncheon given by EASTERN WORLD, attended by representatives of business and industry, Sir Hubert Rance, a former Governor of Burma, spoke on trade possibilities with Burma. He also referred to the friendship that exists between Britain and Burma, of which he was made particularly aware during his visit to Burma in January. When he and Lady Rance landed at Rangoon (they were invited by U Nu who visited Britain early last year), they found the streets and buildings in the city gaily decorated in their honour. Arches had the words "May the Anglo-Burma friendship last for ever" written in big letters. He said that the warm reception they received in that country left them in no doubt that those were not idle words. Sir Hubert observed that the new regime in Burma was functioning "very well indeed"

and he spoke of the Prime Minister in glowing terms, describing him as a man of high integrity, patriotism, humane thinking and religious fervour. (An article by Sir Hubert Rance on the subject of trade with Burma will be published in the next issue of EASTERN WORLD.)

#### Asian Tour

Mr. Maung-Maung Ji, President of the London Buddhist Vihera Society and Vice-Chairman of the British-Asian Socialist Fellowship, is leaving for Burma early in May. He will be away from Europe for about six months visiting Asian countries to gain first hand knowledge of Asian affairs. Born in Rangoon and educated in Rangoon, Benares, Madras, London and Cambridge, Mr. Maung Maung Ji, who is fifty-six, is an international lecturer on Buddhism and Eastern philosophies. For more than thirty years he has taken active part in the struggle for Asian freedom and has worked with Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore, Annie Besant and Reverend U Ottama. On March 21 he gave a lecture on Buddhism and Spiritual Liberation at the International Centre of Spiritual Studies, London.

#### Abraham Moves On

The cartoon appearing on page six of this issue is the last that our cartoonist Abraham will draw exclusively for

EASTERN WORLD. This month he starts as resident cartoonist for the *Observer*, a well known London Sunday newspaper. In the two years that Abraham has been with this journal his cartoons have stimulated a great deal of comment. His ideas have always been politically topical, and his draughtsmanship has drawn praise from other cartoonists. When Mr. Nehru was in London last year he accepted the original of a cartoon that Abraham had published in these columns a few months before.

It has come as a surprise to many people to learn that Abraham is an Indian. He comes from a Syrian Christian family, and was born just over 30 years ago in Malabar, on the south-west coast of India. While in his own country his drawings appeared in many well known papers including *Shankar's Weekly*. He has been in Britain for about three years, and in that time has contributed to the humorous magazine, *Punch*, and other publications which included *Tribune*, the *Socialist* weekly.

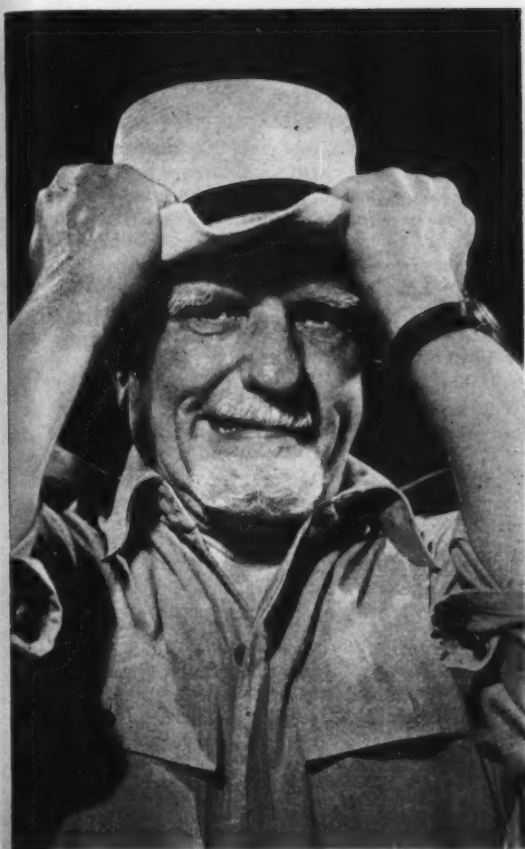
As well as being an artist he is a sound journalist, and quite a number of the unsigned pieces that have appeared in this section of EASTERN WORLD, as well as in other parts of the paper, have been his. But it is as a political cartoonist that Abraham has made his mark and it is in that capacity that he will be missed in this journal.

## Indonesian Art

An exhibition of Indonesian paintings and handicrafts which was opened by the Indonesian Ambassador at the Imperial Institute last month, was representative of the renaissance that has been taking place in Indonesia since the country's independence. Together with the revival in painting and sculpture, there has also been a renewed interest in woodcarving, metalwork and leatherwork all over Indonesia and for Londoners this was the first opportunity to see modern examples of these traditional arts. Two young Indonesian artists, Derachman and Moerdowo, each show a dozen of their recent paintings. Both are self-taught painters with individual styles of their own. But of the two Derachman shows a greater response to the native tradition. Derachman, who is twenty-eight, has worked with leading Indonesian painters and has already had much success in his own country and in the Philippines. Dr. Moerdowo, who is nine years older than his colleague, paints more in the Western style. He has had several shows in his own country where his work is well known. Many in London have hitherto known Dr. Moerdowo only as the Cultural Attache of the Indonesian Embassy; from now on he will be associated more directly with the creative culture of modern Indonesia.







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## BOOKS on the

**Spotlight on Asia** by GUY WINT (*Penguin Books, 2s. 6d.*)

The pattern of Asian resurgence over the past ten years is a complicated one, but the trend in each country has followed much the same outline. Mr. Wint has done well to encompass this formative period into one small book. His arguments are basically sound, and in general terms it is possible to say that he is "on the side of Asia." For those who know the author's writings elsewhere this book is something different. It is not didactic about the menace that Communism holds for the countries of Asia, and his analysis of China's place and influence on the Asian stage is placed in its proper perspective.

Mr. Wint focuses his spotlight first on the year 1947—the year India and Pakistan achieved independence and the revolution in China was gathering impetus. He admits that the single most significant event in the last decade has been the success of the revolution in China, and he says that in the absence of enlightened public opinion throughout Asia as a whole liberalism is vulnerable to totalitarian pressures.

The author is, of course, an advocate of the western democratic idea of government, and if there is any criticism of the book it is that in the situation as it exists in non-Communist Asia to-day, with a politically sophisticated group of leaders, benignant dictatorship by liberal-minded statesmen presents a more workable kind of government than western democracy, for which most of the countries are not ready. In saying that liberalism is vulnerable at the present time he is right; it would therefore seem wrong to hope that countries of the region will entirely embrace a form of government which may quite easily yield.

On the relationship between Asia and the rest of the world Mr. Wint has some penetrating things to say. He criticises American policy which, he says, stems from an original misconception of the forces at work in Asia's post-war development. The US made the mistake of wanting to see the new Asia created in the social image of America. This has alienated much of the Far East. India's case for being uncommitted he puts with great clarity and sympathy, but it is unfortunate that the book was written too early for him to give no more than a passing reference to the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung. But what he already says about neutralism and its effect provides a useful background for later developments.

The book is not intended as an esoteric study for those who are already acquainted with the situation in Asia. It is a book for the ordinary reader. It is to Mr. Wint's credit that he has not over-simplified the issues to an extent that would deter the serious student of Asian affairs.

J. W. T. COOPER

**United States Relations with South-East Asia** by MIRIAM S. FARLEY (*American Institute of Pacific Relations. \$1.25*)

This study was originally prepared for the 1954 Conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations and covers the period 1950 to 1955, with special reference to Indo-China—that is roughly from the time of the Chinese participation in the Korean War to the end of French rule in Indo-China—a singularly critical phase for American policy in South East Asia. The study does not attempt to criticise or analyse the reasons for the successes or failures of American policy in this region, since it is considered that events cannot yet be seen in their true perspective to enable

# WAR EAST

any evaluation to be made. What has been attempted is an outline, supported by copious references, of American aims and actions and co-operations with some of the Asian and Pacific nations directed at checking the expansion of Communist influence in that region. The result is an admirably clear and concise summary.

ANDREW WILSON

*Voyage to the Amorous Islands. The Discovery of Tahiti by*  
NEWTON A. ROWE (*Andre Deutsch*, 21s.).

A delightful piece of imaginative writing coupled with memories of residence among the islanders by the author of this book, gives the reader the impression that he is actually reading the log of the good ship *Dolphin* and listening to the tales of her crew. Even the eighteenth century atmosphere issues from the pages, for the author not only has an old tale to tell but is enthusiastic in recounting it. It is no small thing these days, when men's eyes are turned away from the earth into space, to be able to slide back along the centuries to a time when a simple voyage like that of the *Dolphin* was a prime adventure and when part of the equipment carried was a measuring-rod to be applied to such giants as might be met south of the equator!

*The World of Dew by D. J. ENRIGHT (Secker and Warburg, 18s.).*

"The World of Dew" is D. J. Enright's picture of Japan, as he saw it in 1953 and 1954, with the poet's and the *sensei's* eyes—a teacher in one of Japan's 479 universities. Perhaps the latter role is unfortunate; for, to the Japanese, once a *sensei*, always a *sensei*, and hence rigidly determined reactions and behaviour.

In many passages and observations, the ball is hit fair and square; the seemingly endless contrasts—the seedy squalor of practically every one of the larger towns and cities, and yet, living in them, a people famous for its aesthetic sensitivity; the old grandma politely bidding her friends farewell, then turning and shoving with the best of them to be the first to board the city tram, asking—and giving—no quarter; the surprisingly large amount of money spent on books and gramophone records, yet the very low salaries of those who spend it. Democracy, to the newly wed husband, often seems to boil down to helping with the cleaning and the washing up; to the young woman, the definition is tied up with clothes and furniture, for neither the tatami mats of her house, nor the kimono are ideally suited to the new order! In the middle of a jumble of half-absorbed importations in the field of ideas, one suddenly comes across the man who has clicked, perfectly, instinctively. You despise the appurtenances of western culture, so you usually abuse them—your car horn or your radio, the railway or the tram.

But there is cause for hope; the Japanese have tried a number of "Ways"; now they might give a chance to the "Way of the Human". And although everything seems to be against them, "if they can liberate themselves from their past, and survive the present, they should do great things. There is an unused fund of virtue in them."

G.B.

*Thailand Journey by W. T. BLAKE (Alvin Redman, London. 25s.).*

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this is neither a guide book nor an attempt at a searching analysis of conditions in present-day Thailand : it is simply the record of a trip by Standard Vanguard over more or less the length and breadth of Thailand. The car seems to have stood up very well to the immense strains put upon it by Thailand's roads—scarcely a hundred miles out of four thousand covered were metalled. One likes the author's forthrightness—"I have done my best, but am quite prepared to be shot at by scholars," (this apropos of the romanisation of Thai personal and proper names notwithstanding, there are one or two self-inconsistencies).

There are many interesting sidelights on Thai life and conditions ; the never-failing courtesy, and the faithful police escort with its Land Rover ; in Korat, ex-servicemen are allowed to lease smallholdings, and encouraged to farm them under modern conditions ; as they bring home the bacon, so they are given more land ; the Thais aver that sticky rice, grown in the east and around Ubol, and a certain dim-wittedness go together and all the Siamese cats seem to have found their way to England!

B. CARLTON

India, 1955. Compiled by INFORMATION SERVICE OF INDIA  
(India House, London, 3s. 6d.)

One thing that puts this annual review in a class above most official publications is the high standard of writing. Most of the chapters—the majority of which cover aspects of India

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development in the last year—could stand on their own as essays. The crisp sentences with which each chapter opens compels the reader to go on.

The foreign affairs of India in 1955 are dealt with at some length, and it is only a pity that the book was compiled before the full significance of the Bulganin and Khrushchev visit became apparent. That visit was about the most salient feature in India's outside relationships during the year, and it would have been interesting to have an official assessment of it.

On the progress of the first five-year plan it is stated that in the sector of agriculture the objectives have been reached. Most of the expenditure in the industrial sector has been left to private investment and the largest expansion was forecast for "a balanced range of industries serving either the basic needs of the economy or export industries or the most urgent needs of the consumer."

There are facts and figures for those who are interested and at the back a section is given over to documents such as treaties and joint statements. This book presents, in a cheap and handy form, everything the ordinary person wants to know about present day India, and as a reference book it is of great value.

A similar publication, called *Inde 1956* published by the Indian Embassy in Paris, covers the same sort of ground as the book published in London, except that it is not so much of an annual review as a medium for introducing India to French readers. It carries an article on Catholicism in India, and another on 2,500 years of Buddhism. The pictures are good, but not quite so well done as those in *India 1955*.

J.W.T.C.

## Books and Publications Received

**Das Ostpakt-System** by BORIS MEISSNER (Frankfurt: Alfred Metzner, DM 19)

This volume of *Dokumente* published under the auspices of the Research Centre for International Law of Hamburg University, constitutes a complete collection of all political, economic and cultural agreements and treaties concluded amongst the countries of the Soviet bloc. It gives a complete picture of Soviet-Chinese agreements and of the entire system of Russia's treaty policy in Asia.

**The International Who's Who 1955** (Europa Publications £5).

Any work of this nature is bound to suffer omissions—but in this case the inclusions tend to lean more on European notabilities, while Asian, particularly far Eastern, inclusions are decidedly weak—notable omissions at first glance being Krishna Menon, U Nu, Dato Sir Cheng-lock Tan and prominent industrialists like the Birla family.

**China Yearbook, 1955**, is a very full survey of modern China, which runs to well over 500 pages, and is claimed by its publishers to be the first such detailed study to come from Japan. The compilation is by Chugoku Kenkyujo, the China Research Institute, in Tokyo. There are chapters on international relations, with the Soviet, with other Asian nations, and with Europe and America, and in this as in the other sections, there is a special chapter relating to the events of 1954. There is a chapter dealing with politics, and also with the army, one on economics, with sections on taxation, manufacture, agriculture, water-works, overseas trade and commerce. A final literary and cultural section deals with schooling, adult education, religion, newspapers, publications, and broadcasting.

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## REVIEW OF REVIEWS

**E**CONOMIC activity has acquired a new stress in the East since the entry of the Communist powers in the area and this is clearly reflected in comments in Asian journals. There appears to be a growing feeling in Asia that aid from individual powers should be replaced by a more organised system of assistance, preferably through an international and non-political body like the United Nations. The future pattern of economic reconstruction in Asia may well be along those lines. In this context an assessment of the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East during the eight years since its inception is of value. The *Eastern Economist* of New Delhi, writing on the occasion of the recent annual session of the ECAFE at Bangalore in South India, expressed some disappointment at the results achieved by the Commission. The paper admits that one of the reasons why ECAFE has been unable to make the anticipated impact on the regions it covers is its lack of resources. "Unlike the Economic Commission for Europe, which enjoyed the benefit of a sound organisational apparatus, partly inherited from the United Nations' predecessor organisation and largely built on a comprehensive and sound basis by reason of command over rich resources of statistical and factual data readily available in economically progressive countries, ECAFE had to grope its way in an area where these aids could be obtained only on a scant scale." The difficulties in procuring worthwhile data were also complicated by the unsettled conditions which prevailed in these areas in the first few years. But, the *Eastern Economist* pointed out, eight years was an adequate period for an organisation deriving its sanction from the United Nations to register its impression on the programmes of economic rehabilitation and development undertaken by its member countries. The journal was of the view that the ECAFE'S inability to make that impression had been due mainly to "the absence of a dynamic policy to adjust its technique of operation to the fast changing needs of the countries of the region."

Japan's desire to co-operate in the economic development of South East Asia is expressed by Tanzan Ishibashi, Japanese Minister for Trade and Industry, in an article in the February issue of the *Oriental Economist* of Tokyo. He observes that active and positive exports of Japanese technique and capital to those areas as advocated at the Colombo Plan Consultative meeting at Singapore was an urgent necessity in Japan's own interest, because the promotion of her export trade depended greatly on investment abroad. Mr. Ishibashi, writing generally on Japan's economic course in 1956, says that Japan is destined to fare economically well this year. He states that among the major problems facing the country to-day, the problem of unemployment deserves top priority. The question of unemployment is dealt with in an editorial article in the same issue. According to the Labour Ministry, Japan has about 700,000 completely unemployed persons. The number of "incompletely unemployed" persons is over 3,000,000. The number of persons whose income is less than the standard pay is as many as 6,000,000. The solution to this problem, the journal suggests, is to be found in the increase of public enterprises and undertakings, "enterprises designed to step up production and employment and backed by an increase of national funds."

The *Islamic Review*, the monthly journal published from Woking, England, has in its February number an illuminating article by Ahmed Naeem on the achievements of Pakistan's Industrial Development Corporation, which was set up by the Government in 1952. Most of the major industries of Pakistan have been entrusted to the Corporation. In the brief period of its existence, the Corporation has achieved a "brilliant record of performance," and it is rapidly changing the face of Pakistan. At present the Corporation has thirty vital projects under implementation, of which all but a steel plant and a fertilizer factory have already gone into production. The writer points out that as the Government of Pakistan does not believe in the State ownership of industries, the Industrial Development Corporation Act provides for the transfer of the share capital gradually to private investors as its projects go on successfully.

## FOUNTAIN OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

*By Charles Newton (Calcutta)*

**P**ARENT of Asiatic societies not only in India, but throughout the world, the Asiatic Society in Calcutta is, next to the Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen in Indonesia, the oldest literary and scientific society in the East. Much of our knowledge of Indian languages, literature, archaeology, numismatics, mathematics, religions, and astronomy, is derived largely from the Society's extensive researches in the last century, scientific and cultural link with the West.

Conceived by Sir William Jones, who came to India in October 1783 as a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal, it was officially launched at a meeting in January 1784, when Sir William delivered a "Discourse on the Institution of a Society for enquiring into the History, civil and natural, the Antiquities, Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia." Explaining the objects of the newly formed "Asiatick Society," Sir William Jones said:

"you will investigate whatever is rare in the stupendous fabric of nature; will correct the geography of Asia by new observations and discoveries; will trace the annals and even traditions of those nations who, from time to time, have peopled or desolated it; and will bring to light their various forms of Government, with their institutions,

civil and religious; you will examine their improvements and methods in arithmetic and geometry—in trigonometry, mensuration, mechanics, optics, astronomy and general physics; their systems of morality, grammar, rhetoric and dialectic; their skill in surgery and medicine, and their advancement, whatever it may be, in anatomy and chemistry. To this you will add researches into their agriculture, manufacture, and trade; and whilst you enquire into their music, architecture, painting, and poetry, will not neglect these inferior arts, by which comforts and even elegances of social life, are supplied or improved."

That these worthy objects were faithfully striven for is perceptible in the Society's long history of 170 years.

Appropriately, Sir William Jones was elected the Society's first President, an office that he held till his death in 1794. Because of his official status, the Society conducted its meetings in the Grand Jury Room of the Supreme Court, as it had no premises of its own, for twenty years. In 1805, the Government granted a plot at the corner of Park Street and Chowringhee, and in 1808 the building, in which the Society is still housed, was completed.

Warren Hastings was the Society's patron almost from its birth, and when he relinquished office as Governor-General of



India, it became customary for his successors, up to Lord Bentinck, to follow suit. Hastings was offered even the Presidency of the Society, but he refused this honour, as he believed that his official duties left him little time for an office that required considerable scholarship. However, three subsequent Governors-General, Sir John Shore, the Marquis of Hastings, and Lord Hardinge, distinguished the roll of Presidents.

In 1788, the Society produced its first publication, *Asiatick Researches*, which at once created a stir in the literary world. Demand for copies was so great that a pirated edition was brought out in England in 1798. Even these illegal copies sold out so rapidly that two similar editions were produced. Twenty volumes were published up to 1839. Meanwhile, a new publication, *The Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, which contained extracts from an allied journal, *Gleanings in Science*, was published in 1832. After the publication of sixty-three volumes, it was succeeded in 1904 by *The Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, New Series*, which was followed by the *Journal of The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal* in 1934. This publication's name was changed in 1950 to *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, which it is still called.

In 1806, the Society resolved to publish translations of short works in Sanskrit and other Asian languages in a series entitled *Bibliotheca Asiatica*. But no action could be taken on this resolution till 1835. About this time, however, the Government decided to introduce English as the medium of instruction in schools, and consequently the publication of all Oriental works was stopped. The Government suggested that printed sheets in presses should be sold as waste paper. To retrieve such great works as the translation of the *Mahabharata*, and of rare Sanskrit, Persian, and Arabic manuscripts from destruction, the Society issued an appeal for funds to complete these works, to which literary societies in Europe and in India responded generously.

In 1830, the Government gave a grant for publishing a Tibetan *Grammar and Dictionary*, compiled by a Hungarian scholar, who had done research for many years in Tibet. Similar grants were obtained for publishing a Burmese and Siamese dictionary. In 1847, the Society decided to translate the Vedas in a new series, *Bibliotheca Indica*, but since the East India Company's Court of Directors had already made a contract with Dr. Max Muller for the same purpose, the Society diverted its attention to other works. It enlisted the support of outstanding Indian scholars like Pandit Iswar Chander Vidyasagar, and produced a large number of translations. Books in the *Bibliotheca Indica* series are still being published. Other periodical publications were the *Memoirs* from 1905 to 1940, and the *Numismatic Supplements* from 1919 to 1938.

Interest in Sanskrit manuscripts originated in 1779, when Sir Charles Wilkins, who came to India as a writer in the East India Company's Civil Service, published a Sanskrit Grammar. He was the first Englishman who mastered this ancient language, and in 1785 he published a translation of the *Bhagavad Gita*. Between 1834 and 1839, Mr. James Prinsep's brilliant researches enlightened the world on ancient Indian calligraphy, language and history. His greatest achievement was his discovery of the key to the alphabet and language used on ancient pillars and in rock inscriptions "which have been the wonder of the learned since the days of Sir William Jones." The Society still proudly displays Asoka's Edict, inscribed in Pali on a granite block about 250 B.C., which was deciphered by Prinsep. Another

scholar, Lieutenant Wilford, met an ancient sage who gave him the key to many languages used in India centuries before.

The world should always remain grateful to the Society for the work of its four famous Sanskrit scholars, Sir William Jones, Sir Charles Wilkins, Henry Thomas Colebrooke, and Horace Hayman Wilson. Jones contributed twenty-nine papers in the first four volumes of the *Asiatick Researches*; his translation of *Manu* has been a standard textbook for lawyers for over a century; and his translations of Kalidas's *Shakuntala* and Jayadeva's *Gita Gobinda* were universally acclaimed as classics. Wilson was called the Socrates of Sanskrit grammar. And Colebrooke was the only English grammarian "worthy of a niche in the same temple with the great Indian grammarian, Panini, and the only English scholar to whom Patanjali's description of Panini-Pramanabhutacarya is justly applicable."

Ancient coins drew the attention of the Society's scholars at its very inception. About 1830, an attempt was made to classify India's ancient coins, and, some years later, thousands of Greek coins were obtained. Subsequently, it was discovered that there was a link between Hindu coins and Indo-Scythic coins with Greek inscriptions. The Society has one of the finest collections of coins, containing specimens of the Roman, Bactrian, Indo-Scythian, Sassanian, and Gupta periods. In the last century, a collection of gold coins, discovered in a trove in Madras Presidency, was presented by General Cubbon.

Other exhibits in the departments of archaeology, natural history, and geology were transferred to the Indian Museum, whose establishment had been suggested by the Society in 1866.

At present, the Society has a library containing 80,000 volumes in the general section, mostly rare works dating back to the fifteenth century; 27,000 books and manuscripts in Sanskrit and allied languages, some of which were written in the tenth century; 6,000 books and manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Pushtu, among which are included priceless works taken in loot from Tipoo Sultan's library; Chinese and Tibetan manuscripts and xylographs (texts on wood fibres); Burmese, Siamese, and Javanese works, and hundreds of plates containing inscriptions, some of which date back to 300 B.C.

Counteracting the sombreness of the bookshelves, with their musty smell, are the beautiful oil-paintings that adorn the walls, and the busts of the Society's intellectual giants. Most of the oils are by Robert Home, well-known English artist, who came to India in the first quarter of the last century. For some time, he was artist to Ghaziuddin Hyder, King of Oudh. Later, Home toured Europe, and returned with original paintings by numerous European masters, such as Rubens, Domenichino, Reynolds, Canaletto, and Kettle, which were presented to the Society. From other sources, the original works of Chinnery, Poe, and Daniell were obtained. Of special interest is the original of Joshua Reynolds's "Sir William Jones as a Boy." Other beautiful specimens of art are the marble busts by Sir Francis Chantrey,

The Society has 600 members, and last year, scholars from Japan, France, Hungary, West Germany, the USA, Egypt, and Iran, studied in the Library. A severe handicap is the shortage of space, but arrangements are being made for building more spacious premises elsewhere. Meanwhile, there is a less ambitious plan to institute a South-East Asian research department.

Judged by the projects that are planned, the Society seems determined to remain, as it always has been, the cultural link between the East and the West.

# The Puzzling Deaths of Tzu Hsi and Kwang Hsu

By Elizabeth Leibrock (St. Louis, U.S.A.)

THE death of Kwang Hsu (the last but one Manchu Emperor to rule China) and subsequent death of his aunt (the Great Empress Dowager) is still a controversial subject surrounded with mystery. There is even disagreement as to the dates of the deaths. Most writers agree that Kwang Hsu died in November 1908, although there is a question whether it was the 14th or the 23rd of that month. Princess Der Ling in her book, *Old Buddha*, gives the impression that the Empress Dowager lived days or perhaps weeks after her nephew's death; however, the other writers say that she died the next day. Some say she died because "she realized that in all the court she was the only person hostile to the Emperor . . . and said over and over 'I have made many mistakes. I have made many mistakes.'" Another author says she was merely seized with a fainting fit—a recurrence of a previous illness. Princess Der Ling, who seems most reliable in her information, blames the Old Buddha's death on her Chief Eunuch, Li Lien Ying. The Princess was the first lady-in-waiting to the Empress Dowager and knew her—and her court associates—very well. She pictures Li Lien Ying throughout her book as a villain.

Li Lien Ying, the fiend incarnate, who possessed neither heart nor soul if we judge him by what he did. Li Lien Ying heard the whispers (about the sudden death of Kwang Hsu), if whispers there were—and took them to the already sorely tried Tzu Hsi. . . . Tzu Hsi heard, and something snapped within her brain. . . . (She) fell as an aged tree falls."

However, it is necessary here to outline the circumstances leading up to the two deaths, which all agree were too close together not to be puzzling.

When Tung Chih, Old Buddha's son and the second ruler of China whom Tzu Hsi dominated, died, his wife was pregnant. If this child was a male he would be heir to the throne and his mother would become Empress Dowager instead of Tzu Hsi. This ambitious woman did not take any chances, but suggested to her bereaved daughter-in-law that she should commit suicide to be with her beloved dead husband. She then appointed Kwang Hsu, son of her own sister, as new Emperor. Again Tzu Hsi became regent (Kwang Hsu's mother died shortly after his coronation) and ruled China from behind the figure-head Emperor.

When Kwang Hsu grew older he opposed his aunt on the question of reform. While Tzu Hsi resided in the Summer Palace Kwang Hsu schemed with Kang Yu-wei in Peking. They had reforms to carry out, but feared Old Buddha's interference. So they planned to detain her within the Summer Palace and prevent her from coming to the capital and spoiling their decrees. The blockade plan was foiled by the traitor Yuan Shih Kai, who went to the Empress Dowager and warned her. When Tzu Hsi did decide it was time to move back to Peking and take control, Kwang Hsu, knowing he had no chance against his aunt, dejectedly fell at her feet and surrendered. In the presence of Yuan Shih Kai and Yung Lu he did not even deny all the evidence against him. As a result of his activities without Old Buddha's approval Kwang Hsu was deposed as Emperor and

sent to Ying Tai (a little island in the lake on the grounds of the Winter Palace) as a prisoner. Kwang Hsu then assumed her third regency and once more took complete control of her four hundred million subjects.

This period of imprisonment is seen by some authorities as a period of waiting for Kwang Hsu until Old Buddha would die and he could again resume his policy of reform, while others are of the opinion that there was no animosity toward Tzu Hsi on the part of Kwang Hsu.

An interesting incident took place during this period of strange imprisonment. The Empress Dowager never publicly rebuked her nephew, but would punish him or attempt to teach him in a subtle way. She took him to the theatre one evening to see a play about a boy who, through his unfilial acts, caused his foster parents to commit suicide and the gods in turn destroyed him. At the conclusion the Empress is quoted as having asked him: "Do you understand why Chang Chi-pao (the unfilial son in the play) was killed by heavenly thunder?" Kwang Hsu replied: "Because he was not filial." Tzu Hsi is said to have smiled and said: "Everything will be all right if you just understand that."

Princess Der Ling takes a less pleasant view of the situation and says:

Tzu Hsi, since that time when he had plotted against her life—for which she would have had him decapitated had he been less than Emperor—had hated Kwang Hsu. Little things, trifling things, occurred to her mind by which she could annoy Kwang Hsu. He was little more than a prisoner in his own palace. An Emperor without an Empire, a nonentity with a name and a body—but not a soul to call his own."

Princess Der Ling, who lived in the court of Tzu Hsi and knew her associates well, describes this hatred of Kwang Hsu as it developed and finally resulted in his murder at her suggestion. According to this author, Li Lien Ying, the ruthless and sinister Chief Eunuch whom Tzu Hsi trusted, discovered the diary of Kwang Hsu (which he started to write on Ying Tai). Some excerpts are quoted as follows:

I am ill, but I feel in my heart that I shall outlive the Old Buddha. In that case it is decreed that, immediately she is dead, Yuan Shih Kai, the arch-traitor, be decapitated. It is also decreed that immediately upon the death of Her Majesty, Li Lien Ying be put to death in the same manner."

Worried and startled to see his own name, Li Lien Ying is supposed to have carried his information to the Old Buddha. He reminds her of Kwang Hsu's previous conspiracy against her life and indicates that he believes this statement to be a hint at a new attempt to kill her. To her request for suggestions Li Lien Ying is quoted as having said: "It would be beneficial to all concerned were His Majesty Kwang Hsu to die before Old Buddha." The Chief Eunuch would go no further in his suggestions and it was up to the Empress to take the bit in her teeth. As Princess Der Ling quotes in her book:

'His Majesty is desperately ill. He has always been ill. He always will be ill. It is in my mind that those to whom we entrusted the task of preparing his medicine have perhaps been careless, which may account for the fact that he mends so slowly. Hereafter, Li Lien Ying, you will have charge of ministering to Kwang Hsu.'

This was all Li Lien Ying needed and immediately he began feeding the ailing Emperor, poisoning him slowly but surely. Princess Der Ling believed Li to be a thorough villain, and she describes the Chief Eunuch as hovering over the dying man grinning derisively and impatiently waiting for his life to end. Old Buddha paid a visit to Kwang Hsu, according to Der Ling, "in order to turn suspicion away from herself." Kwang Hsu knew that Li Lien Ying was poisoning him and indicated as much to his aunt on this last visit. She tried to ease her conscience by placing the blame on Li Lien Ying who would accept none of it, insisting he was only following orders, but she did not relieve him from his duty of caring for the dying monarch.

This is the most direct and accusing account of Kwang Hsu's death. The only excuse that Princess Der Ling offers for the Old Buddha (whom she knew and loved) is that after the death of Yung Lu, whom she loved but could never marry, "something of her soul, of her stout old heart, went to the grave with her staunch favourite—and something of her mind, too."

This is also the most developed and outspoken account. Perhaps the other authors lack the contact with first-hand witnesses. Daniele Varé in his book, *The Last Empress*, dismisses the puzzle with one paragraph and places the blame elsewhere.

"There is no proof, or even circumstantial evidence, to justify the suspicion that Kwang Hsu did not die a natural death. But on the other hand it was perhaps no mere coincidence that, when Tzu Hsi's health began to fail and it appeared probable that she would not live much longer, Kwang Hsu should also have sickened and died. . . ."

In this report it is Yuan Shih Kai whom the Emperor curses from his death-bed. Li Lien Ying is not even mentioned. Kwang Hsu is quoted as writing on his last day:

"She (the Empress Dowager) has always hated us. But for our misery of the past ten years, Yuan Shih Kai is responsible and none other. When the time comes, I desire that Yuan Shih Kai be summarily beheaded."

When his voice failed he continued cursing this hated traitor by moving his finger as if drawing circles in the air. The first character of Yuan's name means "round" or "circle."

In Varé's account there is no mention of a last visit by Old Buddha nor any direct accusation of murder.

Another author, Harry Hussey, introduces a new character and makes Li Lien Ying into a sincere tired old man who "wanted to retire to the farm he owned north of Peking." Such diversity in reports illustrates the doubt and confusion that still surrounds these two deaths.

Wang An is the old eunuch that Mr. Hussey describes as the Emperor's life-long companion who "kept him (Kwang Hsu) from committing suicide by reminding him that he was the successor of a great line of Ch'ing emperors." This loyal old retainer is supposed to have shouted insults out of the window of the Emperor's cell to Li Lien Ying so that he would defy the Empress's orders and come across the drawbridge to



"Old Buddha"—the Dowager Empress of China who died in 1908

Kwang Hsu's room. Now comes the real reversal as Li Lien Ying is quoted as saying:

"Oh, Emperor, it was not because your humble serf had no conscience that he did not visit you before. Your Empress and the imperial concubines have themselves turned unfaithful and unworthy of your favours and have themselves neglected you and ordered us to do the same. That there should be a profound hostility between you and Empress Tzu Hsi is the will of Heaven and no human can alter or control it. But Empress Tzu Hsi is now dying, and if the Emperor will but take care of his dragon body for ten days, your humble serf, Li Lien Ying, will bring the master to the Yuan Hsien Hall and you will take over complete control of the government. Then let your humble serf, Li Lien Ying, receive the punishment of lingering death and he will not complain."

This account describes Kwang Hsu dying alone and neglected (except for his faithful eunuch, Wang An) while at her luxurious palace surrounded by imperial officials his aunt was dying. Instead of cursing Yuan Shih Kai in his last words the Emperor is supposed to have written these four lines on his bedroom wall with his finger dipped in soot from his charcoal stove.



"Though the affection between a son and his mother has been severed beyond repair, why should not my wife come to see me even though there is no love? And why does not my younger brother look on me for a minute?"

When this "younger brother," Prince Ch'un does get up enough courage to ask his dominant aunt for permission to see Kwang Hsu the dying monarch is described as making another final gesture with his finger. In this account he is supposed to point to the mattress on his bed to show the miserable way he was living and say: "Remember this."

Although there is no suggestion of poison or subterfuge, Mr. Hussey's description of Kwang Hsu's death is dramatic. A servant went to deliver the morning pastries and found Wang An dead outside the Emperor's door. When this report reached the court Kwang Hsu's wife woke the sleeping Empress and begged permission to go wait on her husband. Accompanied by a retinue from the court the Emperor's wife arrived at his prison. Receiving no answer to their knock they broke down the door and found that Kwang Hsu was dead. All the soldiers and servants and eunuchs and even the princes knelt down and wept at the sad news, of the Emperor's death. It is here that Tzu Hsi is described as penitent and ashamed for not being nicer to her nephew.

As for the cause of her death, Hussey attributes it to her strong will, as he says of her:

"... Tzu Hsi died not because she had to die, or because her time had come, but because she herself decided to die. She was now very tired and longed this time not for her Summer Palace but for rest and peace, surrounded by the things she

loved, in the great tomb she had built for herself in the solitude and quietness of the Tung Ling."

This account places no blame whatsoever on Tzu Hsi and even romanticizes her into a sweet penitent old lady. It seems to be a more shallow and distant approach than that taken by Princess Der Ling.

An interesting anecdote reported by Hussey (who gives detailed descriptions of the two funerals and the One Hundred days of mourning) concerns the actual entombment of the Emperor's body. His funeral is described as being far less elaborate and costly than that of his famous aunt ("... the Emperor had but one yellow parasol and one 16-man sedan chair, compared with the hundreds of these that had accompanied the funeral procession of Tzu Hsi.") But one thing he would have liked about his own funeral, Hussey suggests, is that "he was buried in the Western tombs, as far from the grave of Tzu Hsi in the Eastern tombs as was possible and still be buried in an imperial tomb of the Ch'ing Dynasty." This fact contradicts, I believe, his earlier statement that there was "no evidence of any feeling of animosity" between the aunt and nephew.

May I conclude by stating my preference for Princess Der Ling's account of the deaths of Tzu Hsi and Kwang Hsu. She is the first lady-in-waiting to the Empress Dowager telling her first-hand impressions. Her opportunities to observe and estimate the characteristics of this remarkable woman were unique. Her statements about the Empress, although not accepted as the final answer to the puzzling situation, seems most reasonable and straightforward.

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# ECONOMIC SECTION

## GERMAN EAST-ASIAN ASSOCIATION

By D. E. Gross (Hamburg)

**M**ORE than fifty years ago German foreign trade established a special organisation for its economic relations with the countries of South-east and East Asia. On March, 13, 1900, the Ostasiatischer Verein (OAV) was founded in Hamburg. Its roots go far back into the nineteenth century when German merchants to an increasing degree chose the countries of South-east and East Asia as their field of activity in order to contribute, in peaceful competition and without political objectives, to the development of these countries and the promotion of their trade with Germany. At the time of the Association's foundation emphasis was therefore, to quote the first statutes, on the "establishment of an independent centre for the representation and promotion of German trade and industrial interests in East Asia." But, beyond that, it was also the aim of the Association to stimulate interest in Germany in East Asiatic affairs.

While the OAV was founded only by German exporters and importers in Bremen and Hamburg—the main ports through which Germany's overseas trade passed at the time—in conjunction with the Hamburg branch office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, it was not long before German industry also displayed a lively interest in the new organisation. Some of the large industrial companies of world repute were members of the Ostasiatischer Verein already before the First World War. Membership has risen from 18 at the Founders Meeting on March 13, 1900, to almost 1,300 in 1955. To-day the OAV is the association of all German circles in the field of finance, trade, industry, shipping and insurance interested in East Asia. Its executive committee includes both those German trading firms whose names have been associated for more than a hundred years with the Asian market industrial enterprises such as the AEG, the successor companies to IG Farben, Krupp, MAN, Mannesmann and Zeiss, as well as the large banks and shipping companies.

The scope of the OAV's activities to-day covers the same countries as originally, some of them now being known under different names: namely, Burma, Ceylon, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Cambodia, Korea, Laos, Malaya, Nepal, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as the dependencies of Great Britain, the Netherlands and Portugal in South-east and East Asia.

The inclusion of Russian Asia in the OAV's scope of activities, formerly of importance on account of the German trade settlements in Eastern Siberia, has lost its significance since the end of the First World War.

In all these countries representatives were appointed who in the year of foundation had their residence at the following places in East Asia: Bangkok, Batavia (now Jakarta), Calcutta, Colombo, Fouchow, Hankow, Hong Kong, Kobe, Manila, Medan, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaja, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Vladivostok and Yokohama. These

representatives were the connecting links to the German communities and the forerunners of the German Chambers of Commerce in the East and South-East Asian countries whose advocate at home the OAV became. At the outbreak of the Second World War there were eight German chambers of commerce with five branches in China, Japan, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines. The first post-war foundation and simultaneously the first joint chamber of commerce in East Asia with German participation is the German-Indian Chamber of Commerce which will commence its activities in Bombay this year. Its liaison office in Germany will also be the OAV. After the end of the Second World War, when for many years there were neither any official German agencies nor any hopes of re-establishing German chambers of commerce, individual Germans who offered to act as representatives of the OAV in those countries were frequently the only connection and consequently the only source of information concerning German trade and industry.

The OAV is not a representation of special interests, such as the associations of industries and exporters, nor is its activity marked by the predominantly local aspects of the chambers of

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industry and commerce. On the contrary, it unites numerous and varying interests which it has to synthesise to form a common German point of view in the economic field. Its aim is not only to keep the German economy regularly informed of all trends and important individual measures concerning foreign trade with the countries of East and South-east Asia; it also seeks, by constant contacts with the German authorities and the official agencies of the East Asian countries in Germany, to remove any difficulties which arise. At the same time, and with all due consideration to the requirements of business, it takes care not to let the many aspects of cultural relations be forgotten. It is a private organisation supported by its members in spite of the fact that in some individual cases it has performed official duties. The latter included, during the last war, co-operation in blockade-runner transports and, at the end of the war, the repatriation of German seamen from Goa and of German citizens from the People's Republic of China.

The OAV has always been responsive to the changes that have taken place in East Asia since the war and accordingly endeavoured already in 1951, by the German Goodwill Mission to Indonesia, to contact the Indonesian Government at a time when official relations did not yet exist. This is also the reason why for many years the OAV has been attempting to help restore normal trade relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of China. Ever since it was founded, the China section of the East Committee of the German Economy has been managed by the OAV.

At the 35th "Ostasiatische Liebesmahl" (East Asian Friendship Dinner) which, with the exception of the war years, has taken place every year since 1901, the Chairman of the Ostasiatischer Verein summarised the views held by those quarters of the German economy which are interested in East and South-east Asia as follows:

"The large number of guests at the 35th Liebesmahl of the Ostasiatischer Verein serves to demonstrate that there has been no change in the great interest which the leading representatives of German overseas trade and industry as well as the Federal Government have in the East and South-East Asian area. Asia, which covers a third of the earth's surface and has one-half of the earth's population, is starting out on a new path. The nations of East Asia are setting out to catch up with the lead of the Western World.

"Germany is prepared and in a position to assist these young national states. In the immense area of Asia two centres of power are becoming visible which appear to be designated to play a very important role in the concert of nations. One of these powers is India which is at the moment endeavouring to bring back the other large centre of power, China, to the family of nations. It is to be hoped that the statesmanship and wisdom of Nehru will succeed in removing China from her isolation and bringing her into the United Nations so that the 600 million inhabitants of this great country will regain their contact with world trade."

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## A Vitamin Oil

**A**N "animal farm" in a modern laboratory at Hull is performing a vital function in improving the health of many nations. The "farm," where scientists in white coats are the workers, is the biological research laboratory of the world's biggest cod liver oil plant.

For generations cod liver oil has been regarded as one of the principal health-giving products of nature. Doctors have long recognised its value in their battle against colds, coughs, rickets and tuberculosis. Today, science has amply confirmed these beliefs from deeper knowledge. Aided by the farm—and of course many other facets of a large-scale research organisation—the main producers of cod liver oil in Britain are constantly working to further that knowledge and, in addition, daily ensuring that their product comes up to the high standards now set by international medical science and by dieticians.

The source of cod liver oil is the deep sea fishing fleet which sails from the British ports of Hull, Grimsby and Fleetwood to harvest cod from the freezing Arctic seas. In 1934 the trawler owners of Hull and Grimsby installed on most of their vessels new plant needed to obtain the finest type of cod liver oil. And in that year British Cod Liver Oils (Hull and Grimsby) Limited began the construction of a large packing plant at Hull.

Within twelve months, the new organisation was in full production, supplying a rapidly expanding medicinal and agricultural market in Britain. Since that time business has extended overseas to an annually increasing export market throughout the world.

Apart from the regular supplies sold through the usual trade channels, British Cod Liver Oils are called upon periodically to rush special consignments to areas of distress, notably flood and famine-stricken parts of India and China.

The production of cod liver oil depends basically on two simple principles which were adopted from the outset of the new enterprise. These are, firstly, that the livers must be fresh to obtain a bland, palatable oil, and secondly, that handling and packing must be exactly right to keep it in that state.

These principles are carried out in practice throughout the organisation, and even on the decks of trawlers, often under great hazard in the Arctic seas, the actual oil extraction is done on board the trawlers and stored in tanks, built near to the outer plates of the ship where they are chilled by the cold seas.

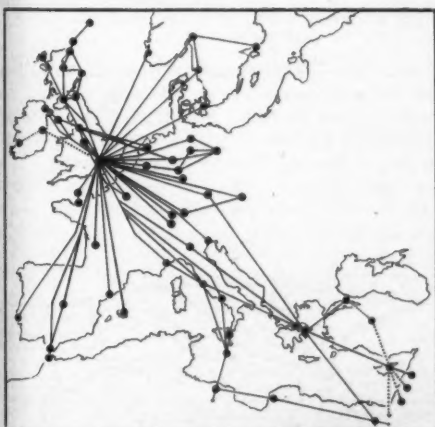
When the trawlers arrive in port, the oil is transferred by motor tankers to the modern plant on the outskirts of Hull, where it is prepared, tested, and packed for distribution. First moisture is removed by vacuum drying, then samples are drawn for chemical and






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biological analysis. By these tests, approved by the British Medical Association, accurate estimates of the vitamin potency and curative properties of the oil can be calculated.

Pipelines carry the oil to the packing departments. In one, 100,000 bottles can be automatically filled, corked, labelled and packed every day. In a year the figures run into millions. There is a special section where cod liver oil capsules are packed. Another floor is devoted to bulk packages. A complete range of tins and drums ensures that the overseas buyer can select his containers according to his special needs.

Metal containers range from 16 oz. tins to 45 gallon drums.

Indeed, in Korea, cod liver oil has been one of the most vital therapeutic substances issued to the civilian population by the United Nations. Undoubtedly this has gone a long way towards preventing and healing rickets, improving the teeth of the children and curing eye complaints.

Apart from the tremendous human market for cod liver oil, the product enters largely into agriculture. In modern intensive farming, large numbers of livestock—particularly poultry and pigs—are kept in specially designed houses, away from normal sunlight and natural food. This practice, which has done so much to lower prices and increase international food production, would have resulted in disastrous failure without cod liver oil, for under these intensive conditions vitamin deficiency diseases quickly arise. But two per cent. of the oil, added to the feed mixtures, not only makes good these deficiencies and raises the health of the animals, but actually improves the whole feed, making it more palatable and more nutritious.

In Britain adding cod liver oil to stock rations has long been a standard routine with the result that vitamin A and D deficiencies are rare. The practice is common in Canada and America and must undoubtedly spread in Asia as intensive indoor stock rearing becomes more widespread.

## CHINA-EUROPE RAIL LINK

*By a Special Correspondent*

ON October 12, 1954, at the end of the visit to Peking by the Soviet Government Delegation, headed by Mr. Khrushchev, Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Mikoyan, a Sino-Soviet-Mongolian joint communique was issued on the construction of the Chining—Ulan Bator Railway. The communique announced the agreement on the construction of the railway from Chining (China) via Erhlien (Chinese border town) and Chamu Ut (Mongolian P.R.) to Ulan Bator, the capital of the Mongolian People's Republic. This new railway was to be linked up with the railway from Ulan Bator to the Soviet Union which has been in operation since 1949.

The construction of this railway was due to be completed in 1955, and despite terrain difficulties (it crosses the Gobi desert) and very severe frost conditions prevailing during the winter months, the work was accomplished in December, 1955. The inauguration of the through service Moscow-Ulan Bator-Peking was accompanied by festivities in the three capitals, and the Soviet Minister of Railways, Mr. Beshchev travelled to Ulan Bator and Peking.

Marshal Bulganin, the Soviet Prime Minister, stressed in his cable to Premier Chou-En-lai on January 5th this year, that "The opening of rail service on the Moscow-Ulan Bator-Peking line will facilitate the further expansion and consolidation of the economic and cultural relations between the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the Mongolian People's Republic and also the many-sided development of the areas through which the line passes." Peking and Moscow have been brought



*Mongolian women talking to a railway worker aboard one of the first trains*

nearer each other by this Trans-Mongolian Line, as the railway distance between the two capitals is over 700 miles shorter than that of the Trans-Siberian Railway. As the new line branches from the Trans-Siberian Railway at Ulan Ude (between Irkutsk and Chinta), it means that the Trans-Siberian Railway will be able to carry a much heavier traffic. It constitutes a major improvement in the overland transport facilities of capital equipment from the Soviet Union and other countries of East



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Europe (and eventually from West Europe) to China and of Chinese goods to Europe. The old caravan route between Outer Mongolia and China has been replaced by a modern railway-line.

This railway is also bound to have far-reaching effects on the economic development of the entire area through which the line passes and the building of towns and settlements with industrial enterprises along the route.

Another communique issued in October 1954, announced the decision to build another railway line connecting the Soviet Union and China, namely the Lanchow-Urumchi (China)-Alma Ata (USSR) Railway. This railway will provide valuable communications between Lanchow (and of large parts of China) and Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan Soviet Republic, which is an important railway junction and is connected by trunk lines with Soviet Central Asian Republics, with the South Ural and the Trans-Siberian Railway.

In February 1956, the Chinese Ministry of Railways

announced that this year the track-laying of the Lanchow line will reach Yumen (where China's biggest oilfield is located) and even beyond.

In addition to these international lines China has embarked on a programme of building internal railways. Last February, the Chinese Ministry of Railways announced that some 1,700 miles of new railways or two-thirds of the total scheduled to be built during the first Five Year Plan were completed in the past three years. The Paoki-Chengtuo Railway which will link South-west and North-west China is to be completed in 1956, earlier than planned.

Recently the decision was announced to start this year with the construction of railways which were not included originally in the first Five Year Plan. The old railway between Pesechai in Yunnan to Hokow on the border of Vietnam will be restored. A railway will link up the provinces of Anhwei and Kiangsu, another will be constructed between Hunan and Kweichow, and the third between Kansu and Chinghai.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS

*By G. Pande* (Chairman, Railway Board of India)

**B**EFORE the introduction of railways in this sub-continent in April 1853, sceptics both in England and in India argued seriously whether it would be easy to wean away the Indian people from the traditional bullock cart and make them undertake the expensive rail journey, and whether it would be possible to get the merchants to load their cargo on to the goods trains.

These gloomy experts would have marvelled at their simplicity could they have foreseen that during 1955-56 the Indian railways hope to carry about 1,360 million passengers and 115 million tons of goods. Not only that. Since the last war the demands made on both goods and passenger services has generally been in excess of what the railways have been able to meet satisfactorily.

It was against this background of excess of demand over supply of transport that the Indian railways commenced their first Five Year Plan.

They faced many problems. The previous ten or twelve years had been years of extraordinary stress and strain, during which the system had been overworked to breaking point. A sizeable portion of rolling stock and other assets had been withdrawn from service and sent overseas to theatres of war. Replacements of worn-out stock had been difficult for almost a quarter of a century due to a variety of reasons. The strain of Partition made an already bad situation much worse.

The condition of the rolling stock may help to pin-point the plight of the railways when the plan went into operation.

On March 31, 1951, 27 out of every 100 wagons, 30 out of every 100 locomotives and 36 out of every 100 passenger coaches on the line were "over-age," and should ordinarily have been consigned to the scrap heap. Yet, they have had to be retained in active service until replacements arrive. Such an uneconomically large percentage of over-age stock cannot but have an adverse effect on the efficiency of railway operation.

Therefore, the first Five Year Plan of the railways has been a plan of rehabilitation. The process of rehabilitation will be continued beyond the first plan and is unlikely to be fully completed even by the end of the second plan.

What have the railways achieved during the first plan period?

The answer may be divided under several heads.

The total money allocated to the railways during the plan period will not only be fully spent, but is likely to be exceeded. Thus, as against the allotted Rs. 400 crores, the estimated expenditure is likely to be of the order of Rs. 418 crores.

Several new major works have been undertaken during the plan period. The largest of these is the Ganga Bridge Project, a rail-cum-road project in Bihar which when completed in 1959-60 will solve the transshipment problems of East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and North-east India.

The Integral Coach Factory went into production on October 2, 1955, marking a major step towards making the Indian railways self-sufficient in passenger coaches. The factory is expected to reach the peak production of 350 coaches per year during 1959-60.

The Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, the construction of which started prior to the commencement of the plan, has already turned out about 320 locomotives, well beyond the target, and a decision has been taken to raise its production within three years to 300 locomotives per annum.

Electrification of the Howrah-Burdwan and the Tarakeswar branch line on the Eastern Railway is another major scheme which has been taken in hand during the plan period. This scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 11.84 crores, is the first phase of the much larger project to electrify all the Calcutta suburban lines and main lines up to Burdwan.

During the same period, twelve new railway lines covering about 352 miles have been completed and opened to traffic, and eleven lines covering 351 miles dismantled during the last war have been restored. Eight more lines covering 484 miles are at present under construction or restoration, including the 187-mile Khandwa-Hingoli line, the largest single line construction project to be undertaken since independence.

### Passenger Amenities

In regard to amenities for passengers, the railways have a record during the past few years of which any public utility undertaking might be proud. Although it is true that overcrowding in trains persists on certain sections, the elimination of overcrowding depending upon several factors like the avail-

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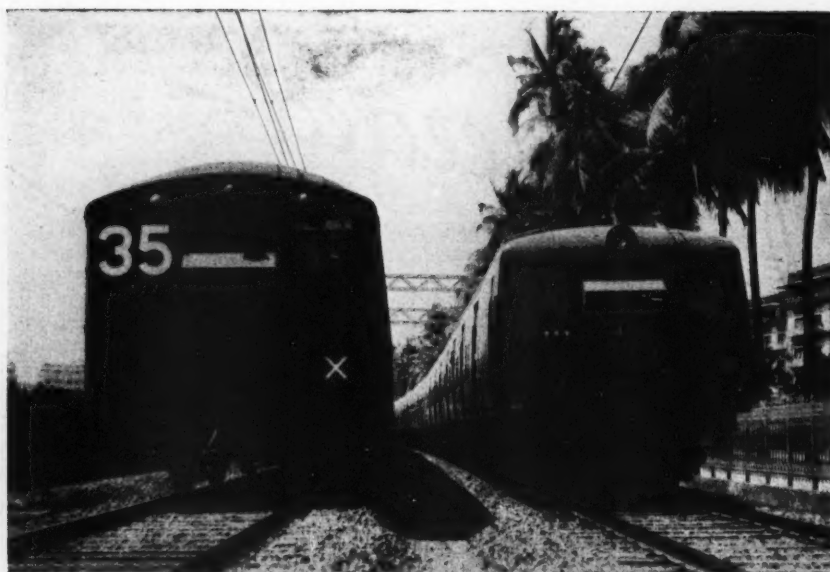
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*THE OLD AND THE NEW — a comparison between 1928 rolling stock and the new stock (on the right), both of which are powered by British Thomson-Houston equipment, and were supplied to the Western Railway, India. The Western Railway and the Central Railway provide for the communication between the city of Bombay (built on an island) and the Indian sub-continent.*

*Prior to 1951, when the Indian Railways were re-organised, the two systems concerned were the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway (B.B. & C.I.R.) and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (G.I.P.R.); these have now been absorbed into the Western and Central Railway groups, respectively.*

ability of adequate line capacity, locomotives and coaches.

Nevertheless, the introduction of a new type of all-steel coach has brought into third class travel a degree of comfort which can compare very favourably with the lowest class travel anywhere in the world, and the introduction of sleeping berths for third-class passengers in November 1954, has been a revolutionary step.

What has been the operating performance of the railways during the plan period?

During 1950-51, the year immediately preceding the commencement of the plan, the Indian railways loaded 91.4 million tons of goods. Since then there has been a steady increase in loadings, a manifestation of the rising tempo of the country's economic life and the steadily increasing pace of production under the impact of the plan.

This has naturally been throwing continuously increasing pressure on the Indian railways, which is reflected in the loadings as the following table will show:

Year	Originating Tons (millions)	Ton Miles (millions)
1951-52 .. ..	96.7	28,966
1952-53 .. ..	97.8	28,906
1953-54 .. ..	98.1	29,436
1954-55 .. ..	105.8	32,100
1955-56 .. ..	11.50 (est.)	—

The improvements which have been made over the best wartime performance, for instance, will appear all the more significant if it is remembered that during the war a sizable portion of the traffic consisted of long-distance hauls, resulting in quicker transit. During the post-war period traffic has resumed its normal feature of a proportionately larger volume of short-distance hauls, which in its very nature cannot be operationally as economic and efficient as transport in bulk over long distances.

Comparison of the net ten miles per wagon day index of the Indian railways with that of some of the large foreign railway systems, although not strictly relevant against the background of differing conditions, clearly brings out the fact that, with the exception of Japan, wagon usage is the best in India—better

than that of the United States, Canadian and British railway systems.

Three important committees were appointed last year go into certain aspects of railway working.

The first is the Railway Equipment Committee which has been set up to recommend measures for making the country self-sufficient in regard to railway requirements of stores to the largest extent possible. The Committee has been doing useful work and we are awaiting its report with interest.

Last year, we set up the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee, which has been charged with the task of recommending a freight policy which is in the best interests of the country's developmental economy and at the same time takes into account the question of maintaining the railways' financial stability. The committee commenced work last October.

Another committee has been set up to recommend measures for eliminating the present excessive overcrowding in suburban trains. This committee's report is expected shortly.

The Indian railways complete the Five Year Plan with a sense of solid achievement in many directions.

There has been marked progress towards self-sufficiency, of which Chittaranjan and the Integral Coach Factory are two examples.

The standard of passenger amenities has risen all round, particularly in third class.

No effort has been spared to provide more and more transport for the country's rising production. If the demand still outpaces the supply of transport, it constitutes a timely warning to all concerned that during the second plan, a plan of large-scale industrialisation, extraordinary precautions will be necessary to ensure that rail transport will always keep in step with, if not one step ahead of, increased production.

#### Electric Traction Equipment for Calcutta

Electric traction equipment worth about £900,000 sterling has been ordered recently from Associated Electrical Industries (India) Ltd. by Jessop & Co. Ltd., who are supplying one hundred and four railway coaches for broad gauge multiple-unit



trains on the Calcutta electrification of the Indian Government Railway Board.

The new rolling stock will comprise thirty-four three-coach units, each consisting of two driving trailers with a motor coach between; two spare motor coaches have also been ordered.

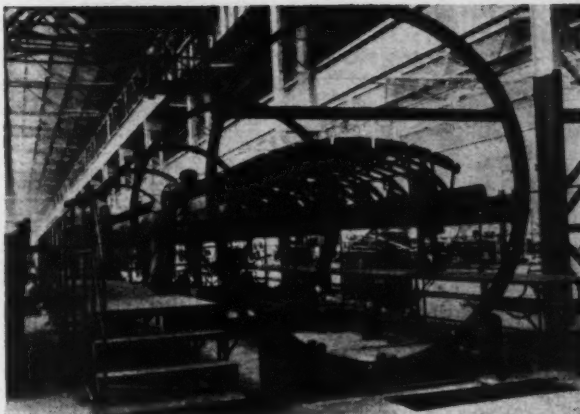
The bulk of the electrical equipment will be made by Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd., at their works at Sheffield and Trafford Park. Approximately 10 per cent is to be manufactured in India by A.E.I. Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

#### India's Rail Coach Factory

The Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, recently began operations. While in the first year of its working it will turn out 20 coaches with components imported from Switzerland, the production is to increase to 100 in the second year and to reach 350 coaches during 1959-60 year.

This state-owned Rs. 73 million factory will be the largest of its kind in Asia and one of the largest in the world. The factory is a product of Indo-Swiss co-operation in the technical field. As a result of an agreement between the Government of India and the Swiss Car and Elevator Manufacturing Corporation Ltd., of Schlieren, Switzerland, the latter is providing the technical "know-how" including specialised personnel as well as the necessary facilities for training Indian staff in coach manufacture at its works in Switzerland. Forty Indians have completed their training and another nineteen are now in Switzerland.

Eight European countries are supplying the machinery needed for this factory. Sixty per cent of this has been ordered from Germany, 15 per cent each from Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and the balance from Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Belgium and Sweden.



Round jigs of coaches in the workshop at Perambur

## Track Maintenance Equipment

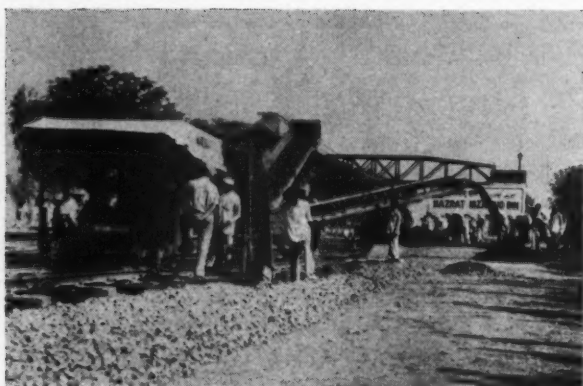
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## *Economic Agreement Between Burma and Israel*

ON March 5th an Agreement for Economic Co-operation between the Government of the Union of Burma and the Government of Israel was signed in Rangoon. The conclusion of the Agreement followed talks held in Rangoon during the month of February between a Burmese delegation headed by the Hon. U. Raschid, Minister for Trade Development, and an Israel delegation headed by Mr. David Hacohen, Member of the Knesset (Parliament).

The Agreement provides for negotiations on the setting up of joint ventures of various factories, the study of a proposal to set up a Joint Construction Cooperation on a commercial basis, the joint study of agricultural problems, and the preparation of plans for irrigation projects in the dry zone of Burma by an agency designated by the Government of Israel with the consent of the Union of Burma. The Agreement also stipulates that provision be made for the training of Burmese students and research workers in Israel.

During its stay in Burma the Israeli delegation was able to negotiate the sale of Israel goods to the value of \$700,000.

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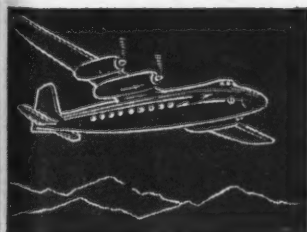
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## THE PORT OF BRISTOL AND AUSTRALASIA

**T**HE Port of Bristol is one of the busiest general cargo ports of the United Kingdom, and every year about 1,500 vessels with a total net register tonnage of 4 millions enter the Port from overseas countries, and it handles approximately 7 million tons of cargo annually. Due to its favourable geographical position the Port caters for large areas of Great Britain and has a flourishing traffic with Australasia.

The Port has a long history, and records dating back to 1239 refer to the construction of a quay trench extending for half a mile, although, in fact, shipping activities were carried out much earlier. In the second half of the nineteenth century important harbour improvements were executed, and the Avonmouth and the Portishead Docks were opened, which together with the City Docks (located in the heart of Bristol itself) constitute the Port. In 1908, the Royal Edward Dock—belonging to the Avonmouth Dock System—was opened and was extended during the following decades. Valuable work has been carried out since the end of the war, including the building of additional transit sheds, quays, oil wharves and warehouses. The Royal Edward Dock is especially equipped to deal with timber, zinc concentrates and petroleum as well as with grain in bulk and refrigerated produce and chilled meat. During 1955 the Port of Bristol handled 143,170 tons which arrived from Australia, 355 tons from Tasmania and 52,154 tons from New Zealand.

The Port is also engaged in the importation of substantial quantities of cane sugar from Mauritius and Australia, and in recent years the importers of tea have been using its facilities on an increased scale. The increased frequency of the liner services from ports in India, Pakistan and Ceylon has been assisting the development of the tea trade, for which special warehouse accommodation is available at the Royal Edward Dock. To meet the requirements of importers a rice re-cleaning machine has been installed in one of the warehouses at the Royal Edward Dock. The rice may be re-cleaned whilst still in bond for use as ships' stores, or it may be passed through the re-cleaning machine as "duty-paid" rice for warehousing and subsequent delivery to the home market.

An important commodity in the Port's traffic are molasses coming from various countries, in particular the West Indies, Indonesia and Mauritius. Molasses are used in Great Britain principally in the manufacture of animal food, and are imported in modern tankers, the cargo being pumped through flexible hoses into a special depot at Avonmouth Docks. There are several mills located on the Port of Bristol Docks Estate which use molasses for compounding animal foods.

Among other goods imported from Australasia are timber, zinc concentrates (from Australia and Burma), oilseeds and oilnuts, flour, canned fruit and other preserves as well as dried fruit and Australian wines.

In the year ended 31st March, 1955, the net register tonnage which arrived in the Port of Bristol from the main countries of Asia increased considerably as against the previous year, for example: from Pakistan (1955—63,655; 1954—24,429), Burma (1955—128,519; 1954—79,102), Ceylon (1955—42,875; 1954—18,322). Only the tonnage arriving from India has shown a slight decrease (1955—164,598; 1954—180,132).

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**Company Meeting.**

## NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA

### FURTHER EXPANSION

The annual general meeting of the National Bank of India, Ltd., was held on March 27 in London.

The following is an extract from the circulated statement by the Chairman, Mr. J. K. Michie, for the year 1955:—

Our balance sheet again reflects expansion, the total of our consolidated figures being £168,653,013 against £162,031,432 at 31st December, 1954. This trend is much more likely to be reversed than continued during 1956.

After full provision for taxation, bad and doubtful debts and other necessary reservations, our consolidated net profits are £421,839 against £385,923 for the previous year. The two dividends declared total 15 p.c., which is the same rate as for 1954.

Of the resultant balance, as last year, £75,000 has been transferred to Premises Account and £85,000 has been allotted to Contingencies Reserve Account, against £70,000 last year. The balance carried forward has been increased by £15,892 at £342,156.

In common with other Banks we have suffered a considerable fall in the value of our holdings in Government securities but this has been taken care of internally.

#### DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

Generally, the production targets set for the first five-year plan have been reached or exceeded and Government is facing its second programme with some confidence.

An outline of this has recently been published which provides for a total investment of Rs.6,100 crores (£4,575 millions), of which investment in the public sector will be Rs.3,800 crores (£2,850 millions) whilst investment in the private sector is placed at Rs.2,300 crores (£1,725 millions). The ratio of public to private investment is 62 p.c. to 38 p.c. Combined development expenditure by Central and States Governments is to be of the order of Rs.4,800 crores (£3,600 millions). The broad aims are to create

10 million additional jobs, of which 8 millions will be non-agricultural, and progressively to raise national income by 25 p.c. and per capita income by 18 p.c. between now and 1961. We sincerely hope these aims will be achieved. It is proposed to finance the plan to the extent of 50 p.c. from budget surpluses and loans. £900 millions is to come from deficit financing from foreign sources, leaving a gap of £300 millions to be filled.

#### THE "CREDIT SQUEEZE"

A year ago, to combat inflation the Bank of England rate was raised to 4½ p.c.; later the "credit squeeze" was ordered, but even together these measures unfortunately have been proved inadequate. As I write the Bank rate has been hoisted to 5½ p.c. and other measures taken aimed to restrict spending. During 1955 production in the United Kingdom was increased by about 4½ p.c. but spendable incomes rose by 7 p.c., and as by and large these incomes were spent we had inflation to at least the extent of the difference. The sharp fall in the gold and dollar reserves is another disquieting feature and is a reflection of our adverse trade balance. So without doubt we shall have further and very necessary anti-inflationary measures imposed upon us, we as a community having failed to impose them on ourselves.

In a totalitarian society there is no comparable problem. Management and labour just have to produce prescribed "norms" and, of their production, only a certain percentage is released for internal consumption, the balance being ploughed back into development or directed into export. As only a small percentage of each annual increment in production is earmarked for domestic enjoyment, the rate—though not necessarily the volume—of increase in gross national product is greater in, say, Russia, than in democratic countries.

In a free economy totalitarian methods are not permissible, and others must be

used to produce similar effects. We therefore await the Budget in hope, tempered by some trepidation.

The alternatives to a policy of reducing the volume of goods for internal consumption seem to be either to make them more expensive (e.g., by purchase taxes) or to ensure through taxation that less money chases the goods available. It would be far less painful to Government and to us if individuals were to save rather than spend, and thereby achieve the twin necessities of a favourable balance of trade and a surplus for investment, but we cannot have the cake of economic freedom and simultaneously eat it.

#### REPERCUSSIONS OVERSEAS

As a British overseas bank our interest in the economic measures taken by this country lies partly in the repercussions they have elsewhere. For instance, it is vital that the United Kingdom should be able to continue to make important contributions to the Colombo Plan and to other similar developments within the Commonwealth as well as to expand its investments abroad through private enterprise. If we cannot do these things we shall lose our place in the markets and in the regard of the countries concerned.

It has also to be realised that the effects of the credit squeeze do not begin and end in London or in the United Kingdom. It is true that the centre of the sterling area naturally takes the first pressure; but the effects of action at the centre necessarily work their way outwards, and it would be idle to suppose that borrowers nearer the periphery of the sterling area will remain unaffected by recent monetary measures in this country. It will be of interest to watch the longer-term effects in this wider context. Overseas banking cannot but be made increasingly aware of this aspect of the squeeze during the current year, and I would not be surprised to see firmer rates in many countries which in outward appearances so far have not been affected.

This of all times is not one in which to indulge in prophecy, but in so far as our immediate future is in our own hands I see no reason to be pessimistic.

## India's Rayon Industry

**S**INCE the end of the War India has been building up a rayon industry. Travancore Rayons Ltd. began production in 1950 with a capacity of five tons and the National Rayon Corporation Ltd. commenced with the production in 1951 with a daily capacity of seven tons. Both factories adopted the "viscose" process, while Sirsilk Ltd., which went into production in June, 1954, daily capacity five tons, adopted the "acetate" process. The Gwalior Rayon Silk Manufacturing and Weaving Co. commenced with the output of staple fibre with a capacity of fifteen tons daily.

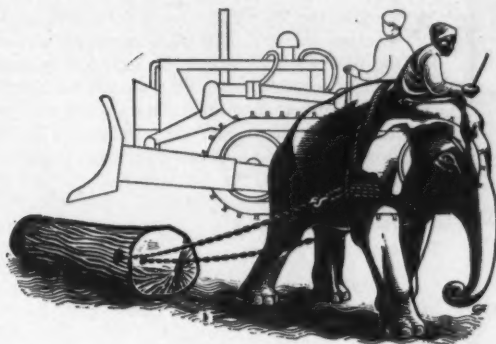
The young industry has made good progress and it is estimated that in 1955-6 the production capacity of rayon filament will reach 29.1 million lbs. (actual production estimated at 16.1 million lbs.) and in the case of staple fibre 12 million lbs. (production capacity and actual production). The gap

between actual production and the rated capacity is largely due to the shortage of raw materials.

The rayon textile industry possesses at present over 25,000 power-looms and 75,000 handlooms which provide work for many Indian families. At the same time UK exports of synthetic fibre yarns and woven fabrics to India increased from the value of £792,097 in 1953, to £889,889 in 1954, and to £983,446 in 1955. The exports of yarn, thread and straw (wholly of artificial silk or of artificial silk mixed with other materials except silk) increased from 2.6 million lbs. (£0.5 million) in 1953, to 3.7 million lbs. (£0.7 million) in 1954, and to 4.5 million lbs. (£0.8 million in 1955).

Due to the development of India's various textile industries India represents an important market for textile machinery manufacturers. In 1955 out of the total value of UK exports of textile machinery amounting to £43.3 million, compared with £39.5 million in 1954, exports to India were worth





It is impossible to judge from statistics alone how far India's traditional industries are being reshaped by Western machines and methods. A first hand experience of Indian life and commerce, like that of the National Bank of India, is needed to put facts into perspective.

Enquiries about trade here, or with any other country which is served by the Bank, are welcomed at the Head Office or at any branch.

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£7,295,618 compared with £6,862,773 in 1954, and that country was the biggest customer of UK textile machinery industry. Other markets in the Australasian region for this industry were: Pakistan, 1955—£4,298,537, Hong Kong £225,554, Japan £266,199, China £77,853, Australia £1,981,608 and New Zealand £470,842.

### New Nylon Crimp Yarn Machinery

In the development of textile plant, important progress has been achieved recently by new machine designed and manufactured by Sydney and E. Scragg Ltd., Macclesfield. This new machinery produces quality yarns with maximum stretch characteristics.

This new plant represents a significant improvement of the well-known "false twist principle" in the nylon crimp yarn machinery. It possesses many advantages over the previous types of machinery. According to *Man*

*Made Textiles* each of the false-twist processing units is a complete assembly, as independent and self-contained as a spindle unit in ordinary uptwisting, and the machine frame itself, complete with driving equipment and control gear, is of entirely new design and there are numerous advances in structure compared with conventional twisting frames. The new machine can be easily adopted for ordinary uptwisting. The false-twist units are interchangeable with conventional assemblies, and thus this machine can be used for both purposes. Among interesting features of the new machine are the all-important heater as well as the fact that the split construction eliminates any problems of threading up. A significant feature is the method of positive yarn feed at both ends of the false-twist zone. The report adds, that in all respects the machine has been planned on the lines of normal uptwisting practice with double-deck plant, it introduces no added complications or risks for the operative.



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## Hong Kong's Wool Trade

**A**N analysis of Hong Kong's foreign trade in wool and woollen goods shows the importance of the Crown Colonies for the international trade. In 1955 Hong Kong imported, in addition to 1,300 lb. of sheep's wool from South Africa, 10,000 lb. of fine animal hair (including angora and rabbit hair) from China, and exported to Japan 10,953 lb. of fine animal hair. The imports of fine animal hair—not suitable for spinning—amounted to 12,421 lb. (mainly from China and small quantities from the UK and Japan), while the 1955 exports were 122,417 lb., including 119,112 lb. to Japan and 3,114 lb. to Formosa.

In 1955 Hong Kong imported from China 89,448 lb. home hair, 90,000 lb. of which was exported to Japan. 14,060 lb. of shoddy wool were imported from the UK. Wools: Hong Kong imported 2,399,098 lb. from Britain, 304,740 lb. from Australia and 70,000 lb. from other countries (mainly South America) and exported 129,902 lb. to Japan, 34,234 lb. to Formosa, and 40,227 lb. to South Korea. Wool waste: 48,388 lb. were imported (mainly from China, the rest from UK and Australia) and 81,625 lb. were exported to UK, Japan, France and Australia.

Yarns (wholly of wool): the total imports amounted to 3,988,727 lb. including 2,866,274 lb. from Japan and 848,779 lb. from UK, while the total exports were 2,291,639 lb., mainly (2,242,139 lb.) to South Korea. In addition 434,441 lb. of yarns of wool mixed with other materials (from Macao and Japan), and 299,692 lb. of wool yarns for knitting and embroidery, mainly from UK and Japan, were imported.

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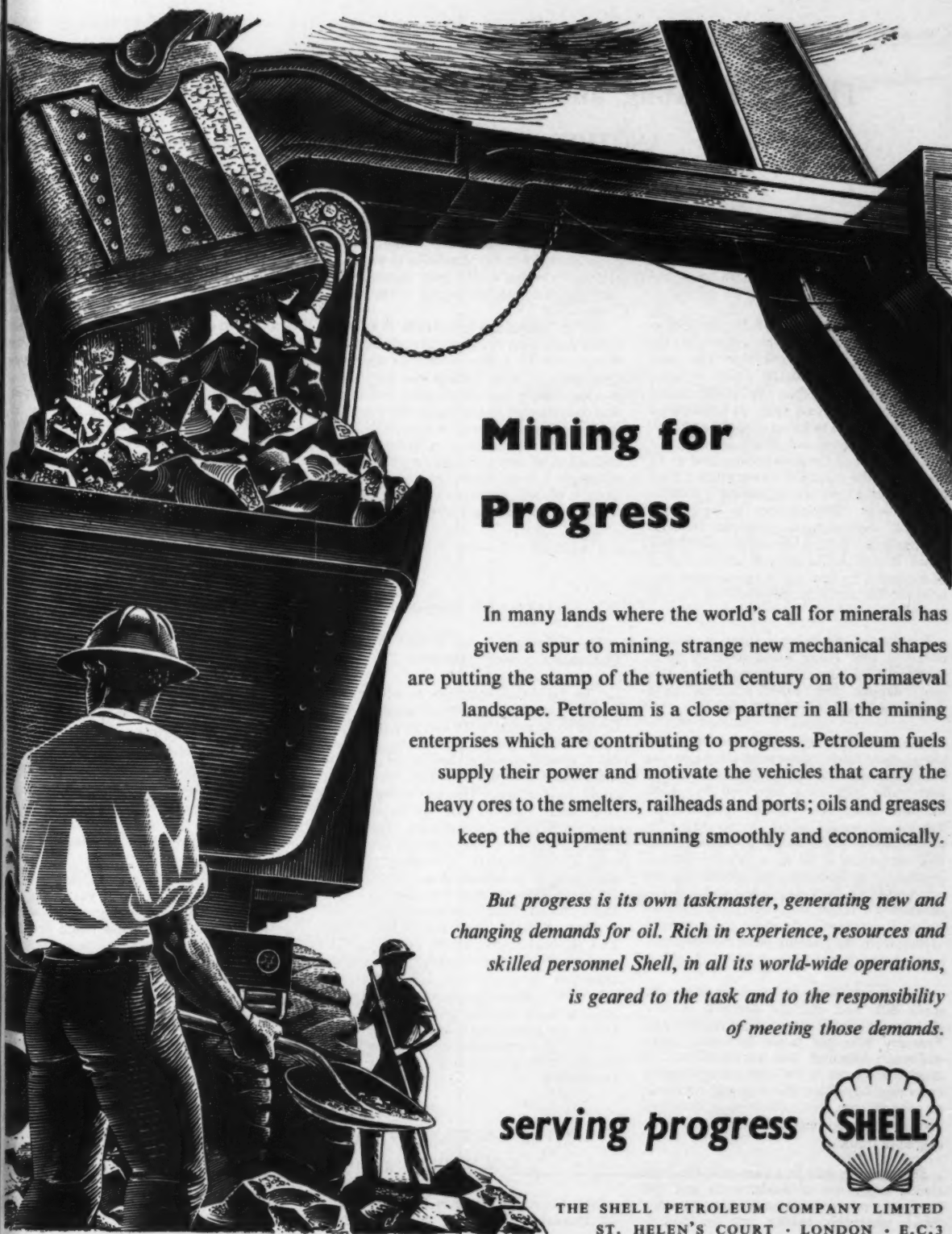
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Company Meeting.**The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation****ANOTHER SATISFACTORY YEAR*****Mr. C. Blaker's Review of Activities***

The Ordinary Yearly General Meeting of The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held on March 16 at the Head Office in Hong Kong.

Mr. C. Blaker, M.C., E.D., the Chairman presided, and in the course of his speech said: The profit for the year amounted to \$20,580,320 which is some \$1½ millions higher than the corresponding figure for the previous year. It is proposed that a sum of \$4 millions should be written off bank premises and, after allowing for this transfer and the interim dividend of £2 per share, the directors recommend a final dividend of £3 per share, leaving a balance of just over \$10½ millions to be carried forward. Although the proposed dividend for the year remains unchanged at £5 per share, it is of course payable on the capital as increased by last year's bonus issue and is equivalent to £6.5s. per share on the old capital.

Turning to the balance sheet, it will be observed that Hong Kong currency notes in circulation remain unchanged, but current, deposit and other accounts have decreased by just over \$115 millions.

The assets side of the balance sheet discloses some fairly substantial alterations as compared with last year's figures. Advances and trade bills have increased by \$240 millions and \$66 millions respectively. These increases are mainly due to the higher prices which have ruled throughout the year for certain of the primary commodities produced in the areas in which we are interested, but they also reflect the growing demand for larger advances from bankers to finance current and capital commitments arising from the growing industrial development in South East Asia.

As a result of the increases in advances, trade bills and the net decrease in our deposits, the total of cash, call money, and Treasury bills has fallen by some \$439 millions. Although this has resulted in a drop in the ratio of the bank's liquid assets to its total liabilities, this ratio still amounts to over 47 per cent, which your directors consider may be regarded as a satisfactory degree of liquidity.

Shareholders will be aware that the continued expansion of world trade and the rise in the price of certain primary commodities, noticeably rubber and tin, contri-

buted to more prosperous trading conditions generally in the territories in which we operate. On the whole, your directors are very satisfied with the results of the year.

The printed statement which is in your hands deals with the political and economic situation in the Eastern countries where we have offices. This follows the pattern of previous years, but shareholders will notice that considerably less space has been devoted to China than has been the case in the past. This is unfortunately a reflection of the restriction of our activities in that country although I hope that circumstances will make it possible for us to continue to trade with China if no longer in China.

The report and accounts were adopted.

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

The following is an extract from the Chairman's printed statement:

"In the Asian countries in which most of our branches are situated progress continued to be made in the carrying out of the various development plans, but in many cases second thoughts had to be given to the targets and the speed at which they could be reached. The restricting factors here were mainly lack of capital and shortage of trained technicians. These continued to limit the improvement in agriculture and industrial development which expanding populations make so necessary. Although dearer money was resorted to and had a limited effect in urban economies such as Hong Kong's, it was not in these countries the real answer to the problem. This was not to restrict demand in an over-expanded economy, but to improve the productive resources quickly enough to provide work for the growing population and at the same time to increase the supply of food and consumer goods to meet the requirements arising as a result of industrialization.

**AID FOR UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

The Colombo Plan has been referred to on numerous occasions and the import-

ance of it has been stressed not only because of the continuing need for economic assistance in South East Asia, but also for the reason that this Plan has generally found favour with the countries in the area. The report by the Council for Technical Co-operation in South and South-east Asia for 1954-5 shows that continued progress has been made in providing assistance in training technicians and supplying experts to aid development schemes. It was encouraging to see that while much of the assistance came from outside the area considerable progress was made in mutual aid.

In addition to the Colombo Plan, assistance continues to be granted by the US International Co-operation Administration, various United Nations agencies and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. A new corporation, an affiliate of the International Bank, the "International Finance Corporation" to which I referred last year, is in process of formation. This organisation will have power to invest in productive private enterprises without the necessity of a government guarantee, which is a prerequisite of all International Bank loans. It seems likely that there will be no difficulties in the establishment of this new organisation, which should be of considerable benefit to under-developed areas.

The statement then reviewed in detail the conditions in the territories in which the bank has interests and concluded:

Shareholders will, I think, agree that this has been a satisfactory year: political differences have not been too acute and economic development has made progress. The countries in Asia are moving along paths of their own choosing and foreign merchants and bankers must adapt themselves to these changing conditions. This we are trying to do: as indeed we should, as indeed we must. But what of new foreign investment? That is another question altogether. Many other avenues are open and the most attractive will be chosen. Much lip service is paid by certain countries to the desire to attract foreign capital but stable conditions and prospects of an adequate reward will do much more than any number of exhortations. This is a question each country must decide for itself and the response will surely depend on the decisions made.

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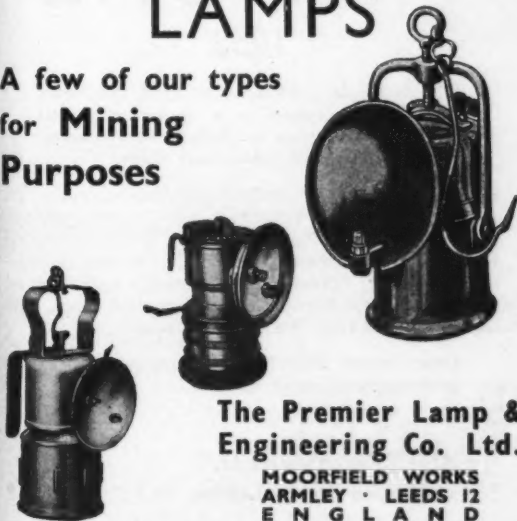
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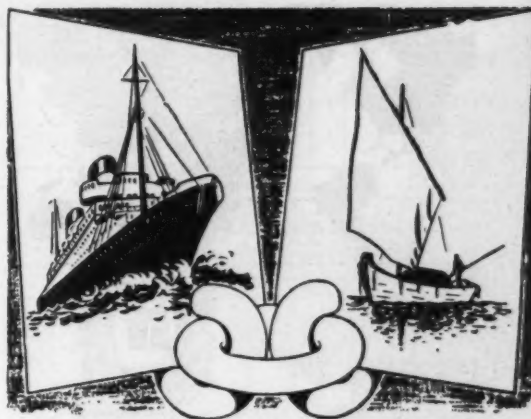
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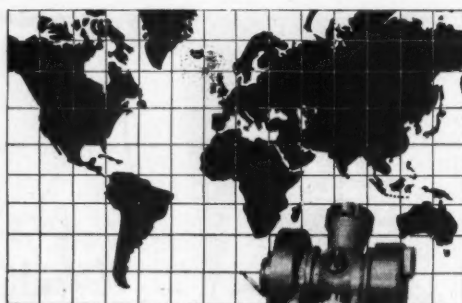
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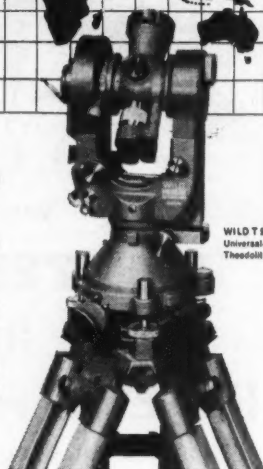


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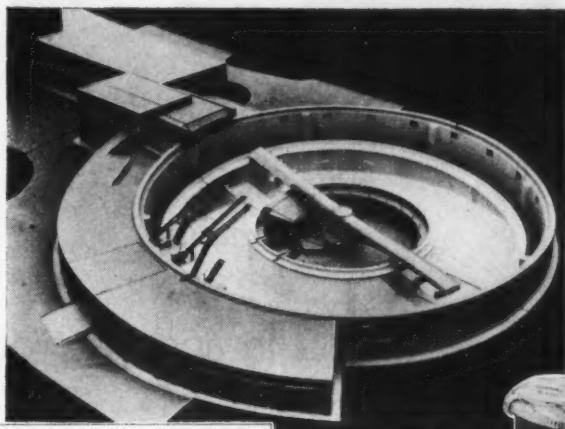
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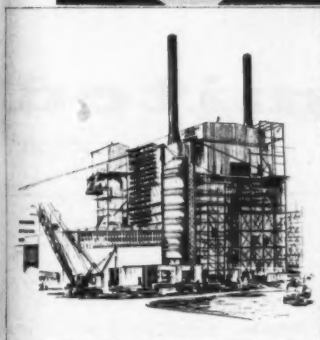
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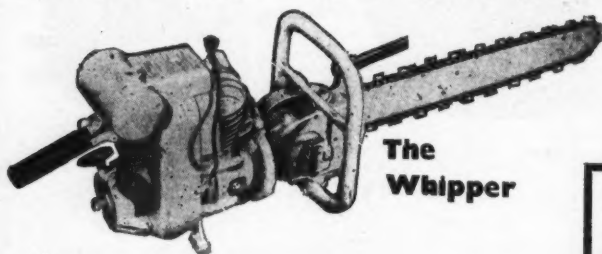
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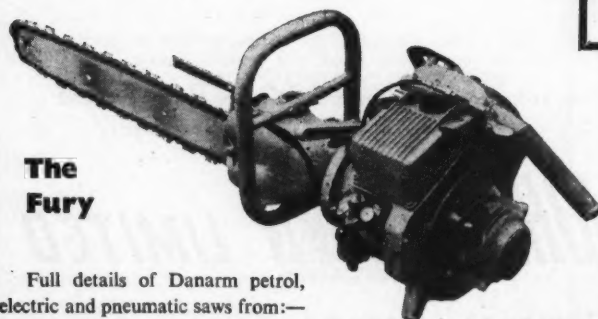
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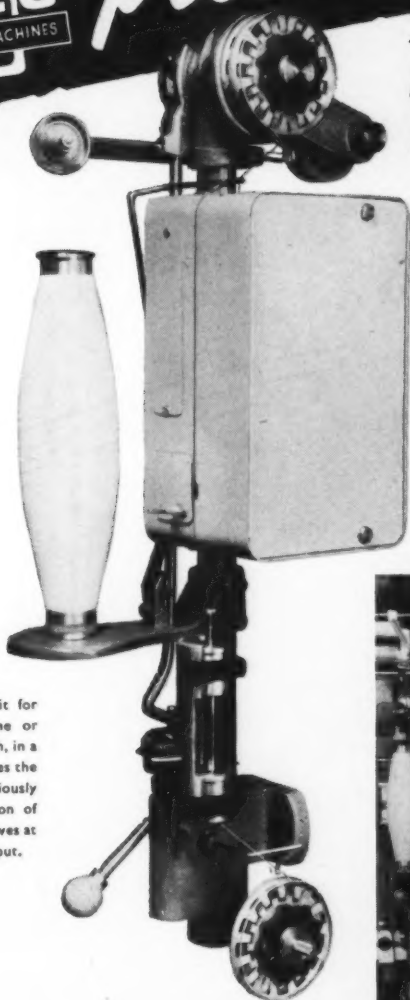
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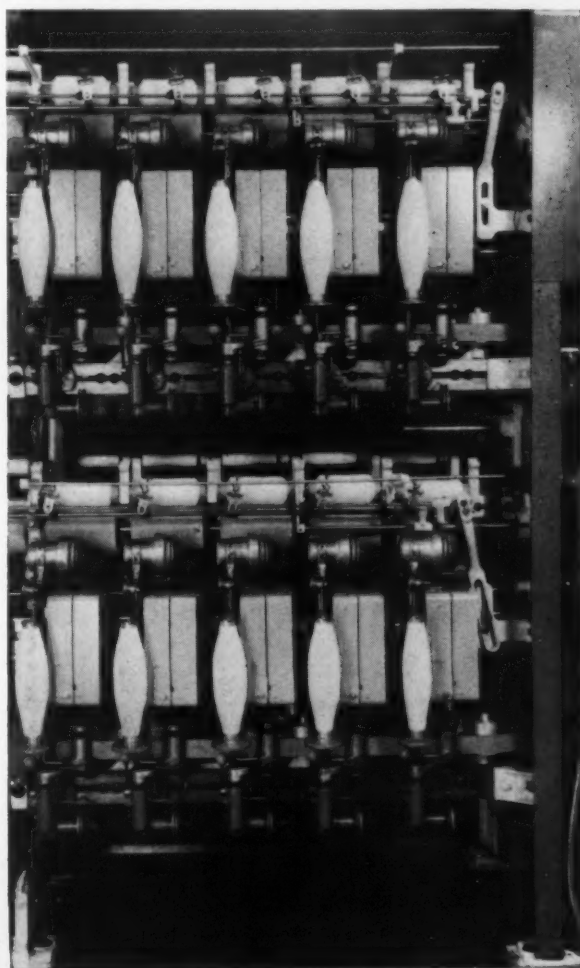
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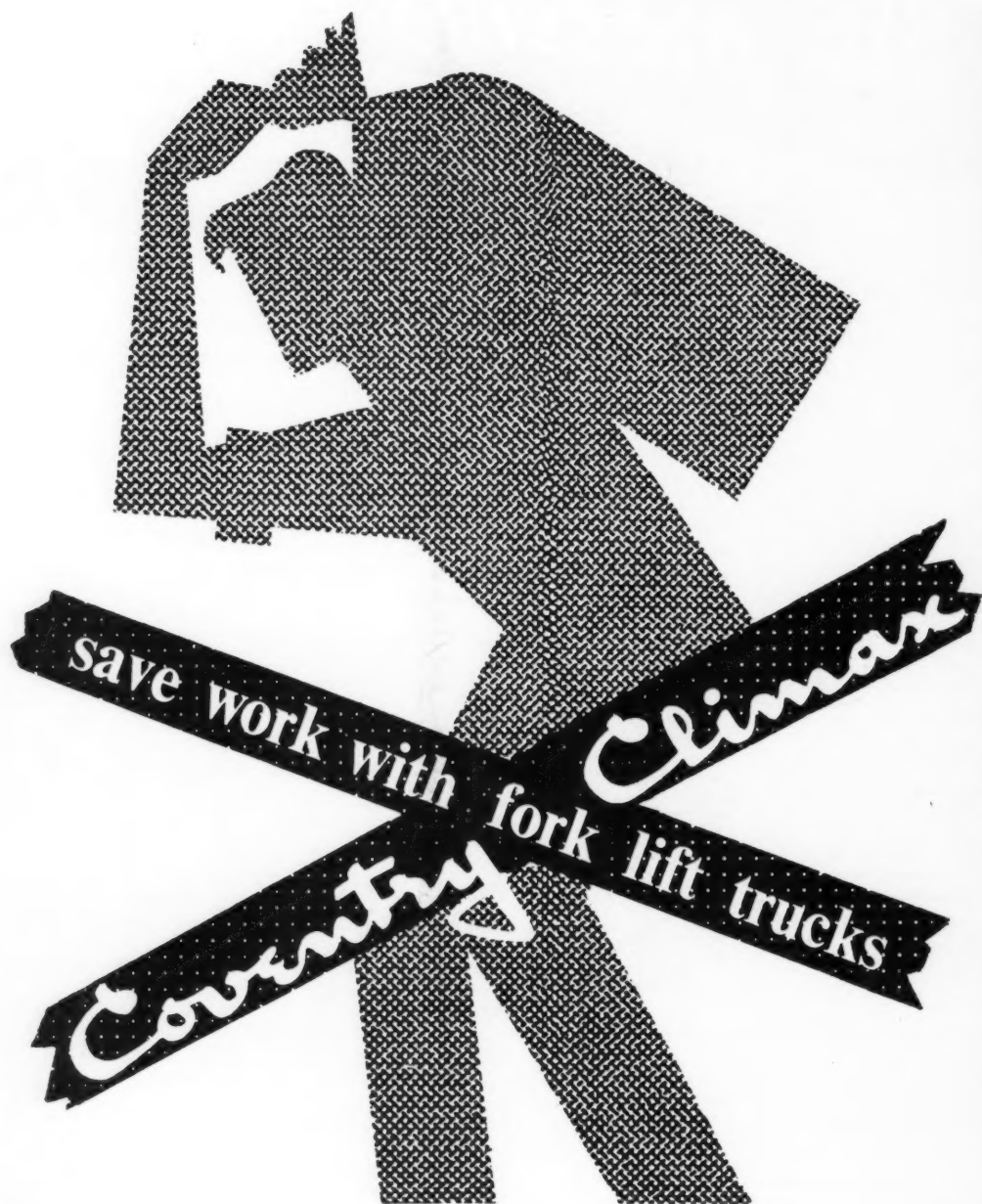
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